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THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,690 FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1996

TODAY

THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

TOMORROW



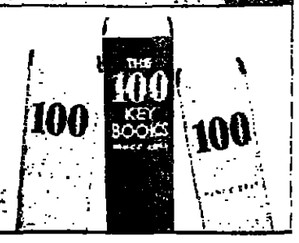
WHY I GAVE LABOUR HALF A MILLION
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DRIVING FORCE
Laura Davies tees up for the Solheim Cup
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THE 100 KEY BOOKS SINCE 1945



Church hit by fresh scandal as second woman and son come out of shadows

Runaway RC bishop has son aged 15

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Roman Catholic Church faced renewed controversy last night with the revelation that its runaway bishop, the Right Rev Roderick Wright, has a 15-year-old son from a previous relationship.

The boy, Kevin, was born after Bishop Wright had an affair with Joanne Whibley, now living in Polegate, East Sussex. The Bishop, then a priest, met Miss Whibley when he was instructing her in the Roman Catholic faith after she became engaged to a Catholic.

The disclosure was made on BBC television after Miss Whibley approached them to unburden herself "and put an end to Kevin's feeling that he should not even exist".

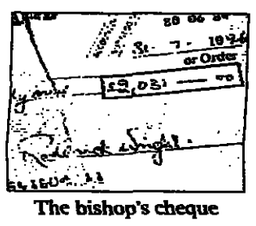
The news came on the day that the Pope accepted the Bishop's resignation, which was submitted on Sunday. It is particularly damaging because the Church cannot now claim that the Bishop's supposed relationship with Mrs Kathleen MacPhee, with whom he is now apparently hiding, was an isolated affair.

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster and leader of the 4.4 million Catholics in England and Wales, professed himself "shocked and saddened" by the affair, which he knew nothing about until seeing the news on television.

The Catholic Church in Scotland, already reeling from Bishop Wright's unexpected disappearance, was dismayed but also discredited by the revelation.

It acknowledged immediately that Kevin Whibley was Bishop Wright's child, and a Church spokesman confessed that it was one of the main reasons for Bishop Wright's resignation. At a press conference earlier this week, Cardinal Thomas Winning, Archbishop of Glasgow, had given no hint of the scandal.

The bishop is believed to have known Mrs MacPhee, a divorced mother of three, for 20 years. Some understanding had been extended to him by sympathetic parishioners and churchgoers in Scotland, who felt pity for a man who had forsaken all to be with the woman he loved. However, this is likely to be short-lived after Miss Whibley's statement that she was expecting him to go to Sussex to live with her after his resignation.



The bishop's cheque

The disclosure has taken the debate on celibacy in the Catholic Church into a different league. The Church must now confront the possibility that there may be many other children fathered by priests, whose mothers are placed under similar pressure not to go public for fear of jeopardising a priest's career.

Miss Whibley, 48, said that although she met the then Father Wright when she was engaged, the affair did not begin until later.

"I am quite sure there are other women in relationships with priests who would want to end the secret lives," she said. In a tearful interview she said she had confronted her lover, but he said he could not acknowledge being the father of her child. He threatened to go and live in Peru if she forced him to confess.

"I have lived a lie and so has he," she said."I was really so shocked. He eventually became more committed to resigning and told me that he would try to make amends for the hurt that he had caused us and if he would resign and come to live with us we could try to salvage something."

Bishop Wright was said to have been in contact with her as recently as July, when she received a cheque.

Miss Whibley, evidently distraught at the secret she has carried for 15 years, said: "I must unburden myself and put an end to Kevin's feeling that he should not even exist." She added: "Although Kevin knows it's his dad and Roddy knows he's his dad, he has been an absent father. Kevin still needs the fact to be known that that's his dad.

"I would not want this trivialised, this pathetic story. I would want it to serve some purpose."

Asked what the bishop had said when news of the pregnancy first emerged, she said: "First of all he said he needed a few days to think about that. And after that few days he asked me what my plans were and he said that he couldn't acknowledge being the father of Kevin."

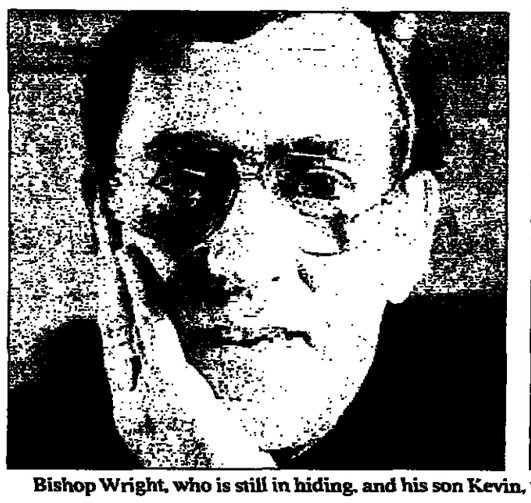
She has kept handwritten letters from the bishop. In one he talks of his feelings of guilt. She also had a cheque from him for £2,031, which was torn into pieces, and a key fob with

Continued on page 2, col 7

BBC TELEVISION



Joanne Whibley: "'I must unburden myself and put an end to Kevin's feeling that he should not even exist"





Bishop Wright, who is still in hiding, and his son Kevin, who said that he felt awkward when he met his father

Maxwell walks free as judge throws out case

BY FRANCES GIBB AND JON ASHWORTH

THE Government will face renewed pressure to review trial by jury in complex fraud cases after a judge halted the second Maxwell trial yesterday amid stinging criticisms of the prosecuting authorities.

Kevin Maxwell walked free after Mr Justice Buckley blocked a second trial on charges relating to the collapse of his father's media empire nearly five years ago with total losses of more than £800 million.

The decision, ending nearly five years of legal proceedings which have cost taxpayers between £25 to £30 million, immediately raised serious doubts about the future of the Serious Fraud Office. The SFO investigated and prosecuted the collapse of the Maxwell publishing empire after Robert Maxwell's death in November 1991.

Condemning the SFO decision to bring a second trial, Mr Justice Buckley threw out the remaining charges against Kevin Maxwell and three other defendants. To launch "another long trial at enormous expense would run a grave risk of suggesting to the public that the authorities did not accept the verdict of a jury".

The ruling met with anger from Maxwell pensioners and Labour MPs who questioned the future handling of serious fraud cases, the role of juries in fraud trials and the regulation of City institutions.

Both Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney General, and George Staple, Director of the SFO, would back a review of fraud trials which could lead to juries being scrapped. The alternative could be a judge sitting with a panel of experts.

Outside court, Kevin Maxwell hailed the outcome as a "victory for common sense" which meant he could return home "without the Sword of Damocles" hanging over his head. Standing arm-in-arm with his brother Ian he declared: "The verdict now stands. We are innocent men."

The Maxwell brothers were

Continued on page 2, col 2

Judgment, pages 2 and 3
Leading article, page 19

Fears over Pill

Women in their late twenties are abandoning the Pill because of fears about side-effects. The proportion of women aged 25 to 29 taking it is down by more than a fifth since 1993, a survey has found.....Page 7

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Clarke backs grandees in Tory rift

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE Tory party is again caught up in a ferocious war over Europe after its leading Euro-sceptics turned on the grandees who warned John Major that he must keep open the option of joining a single currency.

Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, dubbed the six elder statesmen, who included a former prime minister, deputy prime minister, and three foreign secretaries, "dinosaurs". Friends of John Redwood called them "Dad's Army", and other sceptics accused them of endangering party unity in the run-up to next month's conference. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor and leading pro-European in the Cabinet, adds fuel to the fire with a newspaper interview published today in which he echoes the warning of the grandees and says Britain's self-interest depends on it keeping alive the possibility of joining the single currency.

But of deeper concern to ministers are signs that the pro-Europeans, whose warning yesterday to Mr Major marked the culmination of a carefully planned two-month campaign, have decided to mount an all-out effort to preserve the Cabinet compromise of refusing to rule out a single currency and to prevent the recent Euro-sceptic shift of the Government deepening.

This comes as the Right mobilises for the party conference, heartened by a flood of motions displaying deep and bitter hostility towards the European Union.

Ministerial hopes that party differences would be buried in the run-up to the election appear to have been dashed. In an uncharacteristically fierce interview Douglas Hurd, one of the three former foreign secretaries who signed the appeal calling for Mr Major to give no further ground to the sceptics, said he and his allies would no longer "shut up" in the interests of party unity. The other signatories were Sir Edward Heath, Lord Whitelaw, the former deputy prime minister, Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner and former Cabinet minister, and two other former foreign secretaries, Lord Howe of Aberavon and Lord Carrington.

Mr Hurd accused the Right of trying to "bully" Mr Major

Continued on page 2, col 2

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Seven more Korean submariners killed

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN a scene reminiscent of a deadly Cold War drama, seven more North Koreans were killed by South Korean security forces yesterday as they emerged from a submarine and came ashore on a beach in the South.

This brings to 18 the number of people shot dead — 11 in an apparent mass suicide — as tension between the two countries has increased in the past few days. Those killed yesterday, dressed in jeans and sneakers made in South Korea, were cut down by automatic fire as they crouched near a stream to drink water, according to military sources in Kangnung.

At a Cabinet meeting Kim Young Sam, the South Korean President, denounced the incident as the most serious infiltration since the 1960s and said it was an act of "military provocation".

Meanwhile, thousands of police, accompanied by dogs, were patrolling the coastline. Several infiltrators are believed to have fled to nearby mountains.

Bungled spy raid, page 12



"There's no justice — what about our earnings?"

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"I treat; funny, touching and delightful. The film should make Gwyneth Paltrow a front-runner for best actress at next year's Oscars."
CHRISTOPHER TOOKEY - THE DAILY MAIL

"Delightful! Gwyneth Paltrow perfectly captures the spirit of Emma - an Oscar-worthy turn that, like the movie itself, is utterly charming"
BOB McCABE - THE DAILY EXPRESS

"This film is gorgeous and enjoyable. Emma is Hollywood's answer to Four Weddings And A Funeral"
SIMON JENKINS - THE TIMES



GWYNETH PALTROW
emma
U
A new comedy from Jane Austen's timeless classic
Toni Collette . Alan Cumming Ewan McGregor Jeremy Northam Greta Scacchi Juliet Stevenson Polly Walker

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran Aid is banned in Britain

The Charity Commission last night banned Iran Aid from fundraising in Britain after complaints that its collectors had used strong-arm tactics to gain donations. There were claims that volunteers had stopped pedestrians and demanded minimum £75 donations. On other occasions collectors went round houses showing pictures of torture victims. Once inside, they would refuse to leave unless given a substantial donation.

Iran Aid will not be able to resume fundraising until it convinces the commission it has introduced proper controls and training of volunteers. The charity's accounts will also be scrutinised.

Smuggling bill

Tobacco and drink bootleggers could be costing Britain £770 million a year in lost excise duty, a government survey says. The smugglers are exploiting reduced checks at European Union frontiers and new rules on allowances for personal use.

The figures were calculated after a survey last June of travellers returning through southern and eastern ports.

Body in blanket

The body of a woman has been found wrapped in a blanket on a patch of grass near flats in Clapham, south London. Janice Fields, 37, who was deaf and dumb, was reported missing from her home in Tulse Hill, south London, on Monday.

Police said the body had been on the grass for some time but passers-by thought it was a vagrant sleeping.

Strike suspended

Strike action on the InterCity West Coast line, due to take place today and Monday, has been suspended. All strikes planned for the weekend on other lines have now been called off, the Rail and Maritime Transport union confirmed. The next industrial action by ticket collectors and conductors over pay and conditions has been set for September 28.

Boy is freed

A 17-year-old who faced conscription into the Iranian Army when he was seized after visiting relatives in Iran returned home safely last night. Reza Afshar, an A-level student in High Wycombe, who was born in Britain, was travelling on an Iranian passport with his sister Sara and their mother Farideh, 43.

Iranian officials said it had been a misunderstanding.

Foreign ship used

A foreign-owned ferry will enter service at the end of October with the recently formed Joint Rapid Deployment Force. The 17,500-ton *Sea Crusader*, which will carry heavy equipment, will be manned by Royal Fleet Auxiliary crew.

She will answer immediate needs while long-term options are considered. No suitable British ferries were offered.

Open longer

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club has decided to increase the length of the Old Course at St Andrews by about 200 yards for the millennium Open Championship. Tees will be moved, and some new ones built, because technical advances in equipment and increased physical fitness have allowed professional players to drive over the most feared hazards.

Maxwell ruling: Serious Fraud Office criticised for pursuing second trial

Judge wants end to 'prosecute at any price' policy

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE judge who halted the case against Kevin Maxwell told the prosecuting authorities that they must not be allowed to pursue a defendant without heed to the high public costs or disruption to the person's family life and career.

Mr Justice Buckley ruled that another long, multi-million-pound trial would outrage the public and risk suggesting that the authorities did not accept the first jury's verdict. This would "test both the public's confidence and the integrity of the system".

He said that it would appear that the authorities were "determined to pursue the defendant at whatever cost to the public purse, court time or disruption of the defendant's personal life, business or professional career. That must not happen."

The judge concluded: "I have reached a very clear view that these proceedings serve no further public interest." Formal acquittals were entered and he ordered the defendants' costs to be paid out of public funds.

He said that the most serious charges — the alleged misuse of pension funds — had gone before a jury and the defendants had been acquitted. "To override all consideration for the defendants and their families and what they must have endured and to launch another long trial at enormous expense would run a grave risk of suggesting to the public that the authorities did not accept the verdict of a jury. I do not propose to run that risk.".

A second trial would also be "unfair, so unfair as to amount to an abuse of power of the court".

He singled out evidence from Pandora Maxwell, Kevin Maxwell's wife, as to the effect on their family. "Her obvious distress was, I am convinced, entirely genuine. I cannot be overinfluenced by such matters, but no one could have been unmoved her evidence."

In what was seen as strong criticism of the Serious Fraud Office for bringing the second prosecution, the judge also said that indictments should be severed only in exceptional cases. The aim should be to achieve one trial covering the essential criminality alleged. If the jury then acquitted, it should be unusual to hold a second trial.

The first prosecution followed the discovery, after Robert Maxwell's death, that £400 million was missing from the Mirror Group pension fund. The trial judge, Mr Justice Phillips, ruled that two of the ten charges should form the basis of the first trial after all parties agreed that the full ten were unmanageable.

Then, a week after the acquittals of all defendants, the SFO announced it was going ahead with outstanding counts involving the alleged misuse of £100 million of Berlitz International shares, prompting accusations from Kevin Maxwell that it was pursuing a "vendetta".

Yesterday, Mr Justice Buckley said he accepted the argument of defence counsel that the charges in the original indictment involved one course of criminal conduct. With the two charges relating to pension funds, the prosecution had "put its best foot forward, within the limits of manageability".

The trial judge, who is now Lord Justice Phillips, had clearly considered that the pension fund charges constituted a fair presentation of the real dishonesty or fraud alleged by the prosecution.

"In my judgment," Mr Justice Buckley said, "he was correct."

Leading article, page 19
Quest for millions, page 27

SIMON WALKER



Kevin Maxwell, left, and his brother Ian after hearing Mr Justice Buckley's judgment yesterday

Trial thrown out

Continued from page 1

cleared of a £122 million pensions fraud in January, at the conclusion of a 131-day trial. But the SFO decided to press on with a second trial, saying a huge tranche of fraud remained untried.

Mr Staple, who took the decision to proceed, hit back at yesterday's ruling, warning it had "serious implications" for the prosecution of the largest and most complex criminal cases. But Keith Oliver, Kevin Maxwell's solicitor, said: "There comes a time when a just system has to say, enough is enough and that you cannot prosecute an individual any further."

Pandora Maxwell, Kevin's wife, whose account of her children's suffering had a pivotal effect on Mr Justice Buckley's ruling, told of her "enormous relief" and added: "The Serious Fraud Office should realise this is not a game. It is real people and real people's lives."

The judge's ruling leaves open the problem of how any future large fraud should be handled. John Wood, former director of the Serious Fraud Office, has recently called for a look at the Hong Kong system where there are only half a dozen jurors, who must have attained a certain educational level. Anne Rafferty, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, agreed that the decision raised difficulties for the prosecution. But the failure to secure convictions could not be regarded as a failure of the jury system "unless you regard every defendant as guilty".

Certainly, Mr Justice Buckley made it clear yesterday that if there are failings in the criminal justice system, neither Kevin Maxwell, nor any other defendant, should be the scapegoat.

Sons exploit father's eastern promise

BY JON ASHWORTH AND STEPHEN FARRELL

ROBERT MAXWELL'S impassive face gazed from the front row of Court 13 at the High Court as his youngest son, Kevin, was told his legal ordeal over.

The late media tycoon was depicted on the front cover of a biography fittingly titled *Maxwell: The Final Verdict*. Four years, three months and one day after Kevin and Ian Maxwell's arrests, the Honourable Mr Justice Buckley had taken five seconds to end the affair.

A murmur of surprise greeted the judge's comments that, had Robert Maxwell himself been in court, he would probably have received less than the ten years' maximum sentence. As it is, his influence continues to prevail over Kevin and Ian from beyond the grave, just as he dominated them when alive. Robert Maxwell made much of his early fortune in the former Soviet Union, where he boasted of contacts at the highest level. Today, his sons are using those contacts to good effect — through their role as consultants to Westbourne Consultants, a London-based organisation which does extensive work in the former Soviet Union. Westbourne is run by Jean Baddeley, Robert Maxwell's former long-serving personal assistant, who has afforded Kevin and Ian a measure of dignity during the long months since their father's death in November 1991.

A Russian satellite television channel and a telecommunications venture are among projects being pursued by the pair, who use their marketing and financial skills in advising companies.



Robert Maxwell: his influence persists

Westbourne is a consultant to *Maximov's Companion*, the guide to prominent people in Russia. It has also been linked with the English-language *Moscow Tribune* newspaper.

Both brothers have travelled to the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe in the course of their work for Westbourne. Kevin has been seen in Moscow and is known to have visited industrial cities in Siberia and Kazakhstan. Earlier in the year, they were trying to raise Western financial backing for a national satellite service, carrying a mixture of films, news and sport. Mrs Baddeley said the project was progressing.

Kevin and Ian would continue to work for her for the time being, Mrs Baddeley said, although they were clearly now free to pursue other opportunities. Mrs Baddeley had benefited from the Maxwells' skill and expertise — for considerably less than they would normally be able to charge. She uses nine or ten consultants on a regular basis. She welcomed yesterday's ruling, saying: "I've always had the highest regard for the family. I've seen the boys grow up."

Hurd widens rift

Continued from page 1

and the Cabinet into a tougher line against Brussels. He told *The World at One* on BBC Radio 4 that pro-Europeans who until now had been afraid of "rocking the boat" would no longer stay silent.

Mr Hurd said newspaper headlines over Europe showed how "skewed" the debate had become. "We have seen this over and over again. The Government sets out a view. Some of the sceptics attack it. Everybody else is expected to stay quiet. If we speak our minds, we are told: 'Oh, you must not rock the boat.' We have passed that point now."

Tony Blair exploited the row last night. He told a forum organised by *The Times* and Dillons: "Today we have heard some distinguished senior Conservatives trying to stop the mad rush of today's Tory party towards leaving Europe. But as long as there is no leadership from the top, the Government will be paralysed."

There was immediate relief for the enthusiasts and disappointment for the sceptics when Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, told a Westminster press conference that the decision to leave it to a future government to decide whether to sign up to a single currency was clear and would not change.

Mr Lamont accused the grandees of seeing fit to "undermine the Foreign Secretary's position". He said: "The truth is that these people have lost the argument. The reality is that a Conservative government will not take us into a single currency and they should recognise that."

John Redwood backed Mr Rifkind for saying that monetary union was dividing Europe and contradicted the idea of the grandees that Britain should be involved in planning for a single currency. He said: "I want us to be influential around the table by saying this scheme is not working and a large number of countries won't be able to join."

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Peter Riddell, page 10
Letters, page 19

Crime figures rise again after three years of decline

BY RICHARD FORD AND STEWART TENDLER

CRIME in England and Wales has risen by about 2 per cent, seriously damaging the Government's claim to be turning the tide on law and order.

Michael Howard will attempt to put an optimistic gloss on the increase when he unveil the latest figures for recorded crime from the country's 43 police forces next week. The rise in crimes reported in the 12 months to the end of June reverses recent trends in which recorded offences fell for three successive years.

The latest figures — more than five million offences in a year — are a deep disappointment to the Home Secretary and an embarrassment to the Government on the eve of the last Conservative Party conference before the general election. Figures for the second half of 1995 showed that there were 42,700 more recorded crimes than in the first six months and the upward trend in crime continued during the early months of this year. Property crime was falling but personal and violent crime was rising.

Mr Howard, who has spent more than three years attempting to regain the initiative on law and order, said earlier this year when trends suggested crime was rising again that he could not guarantee the downward trend would continue.

In Merseyside, recorded crime in rose by 9,263 offences or 6.5 per cent compared with the previous 12 month period. Total violent crime rose by 13.6 per cent to 12,517 offences, including robberies by 46.2 per cent to 3,252 and violent attacks by 6.9 per cent to 8,388, although sexual offences dropped by 6.8 per cent to 877. Domestic burglaries fell by 2.2 per cent to 20,157 and other burglaries dropped by 4 per cent to 12,162.

The Home Secretary will highlight good news from the Metropolitan Police where recorded crime is continuing to fall and figures from Northumbria showing the number of crimes falling by 11.5 per cent between January and June 1996 compared with the same period in 1995.

In Northumbria domestic burglaries fell by 13 per cent to 11,163, other burglaries by 18.3 per cent to 11,289, and criminal damage by 12.9 per cent to 11,989. Common assault fell by 10 per cent and the overall fall in crimes of violence was 7 per cent. But robberies increased by 7.1 per cent.

Recorded crime fell in England and Wales by 2.4 per cent in 1995, following a drop of 5 per cent in 1993 and 1 per cent in 1993, the third time this century that there were falls in three consecutive years.

Bishop has son

Continued from page 1

a picture of a young Roderick Wright on one side and her son on the other.

Kevin Whibley was born in 1981 — nine years before his father was appointed Bishop of Argyll and the Isles and shortly after he was moved from a parish in Fort William to become parish priest in South Uist, in Scotland's Western Isles.

Kevin, a good-looking, dark-haired young men with a striking resemblance to the Bishop, said: "I haven't seen him for more than two months all put together in my whole life. And it's been useless then because I was really awkward talking to him. I could not speak to him and he did not speak to me particularly much. I realise I have lost a lot through not having a father here. It wasn't necessary, and it should not happen to many children, as I am sure it does."

Father Sean MacAulay, an Oban priest who lives next door to the bishop's house, said he heard about the son only last night. He had not spoken to any members of the congregation and did not know what their reaction was, but he would ask for them to pray for the former bishop at mass.

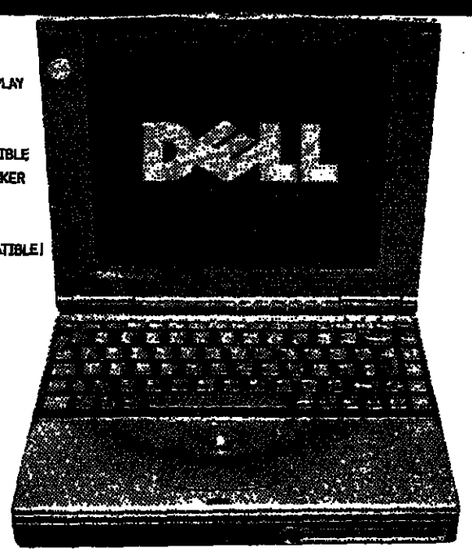
"I think he needs our prayers more than ever," he said. "It is scandalous, there is no getting away from that," added Father MacAulay, who said he did not think the man should have accepted the post of bishop in 1990. "That is what I fail to understand. Knowing he had a child and accepting the post that put him very much into the public domain and into a post of great responsibility."

The episode has echoes of the scandal of Bishop Eamon Casey of Galway, Ireland, four years ago, who also disappeared when news broke that an affair had produced a child. He proved impossible to trace for months. But his location was known by the Church. He was eventually tracked down to Ecuador by Veronica Guerin, the Dublin reporter who was shot dead earlier this year because of her investigations into organised crime.

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upwards, ever upwards.

Crossword compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا في الأصل

صكذا من الاصل

Children cried themselves to sleep and were taunted at school, Pandora told the judge

Court was moved by wife's account of family ordeal

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

KEVIN MAXWELL'S children had cried themselves to sleep and were taunted at school with gibes that their father would soon be locked up in prison "for years and years", his wife Pandora told the court.

Each morning when he left for the Old Bailey courtroom during the 131-day trial they feared that they would never see him again.

Yesterday, outside the family's home in Moulsford, Oxfordshire, she said: "For the past five years it has been like time stood still. Now we can sleep at nights again. It has been an enormous burden and this is an enormous weight off all our shoulders.

"It has been very grim. The older children have been crying a lot. They didn't talk about the last day's hearing the night before. They just gave their father a kiss and said 'Goodnight.' "

In his judgment Mr Justice Buckley said he believed that Mrs Maxwell's expressions of distress and anger were "entirely genuine". He added: "I cannot be overinfluenced by such matters, but no one could have been unmoved by her evidence."

Teddy, 10, the couple's elder son, was particularly traumatised. "He believed that if his father was sent to jail he would be the only man in the house," she told the High Court a few days ago. "I know that he cried himself to sleep at night. I couldn't cope because when the children burst into tears it would make me burst into tears and as a parent you try not to.

"The children still ask, but in particular Teddy, 'Is Daddy coming home tonight? Is he going to be here? Is he here this weekend?' If they come in in the morning and Kevin is not there, it's, 'Did he come home last night? Was he here?' "

Mr and Mrs Maxwell, who live in a 16-bedroom manor house with her parents, John and Ruth Warnford-Davis, have six children: Mathilda, 11, Edward [Teddy], Eloise, 8, Chloe, 6, Madeleine, 4, and Thomas, five months. Mrs Maxwell was pregnant with Thomas when the jury returned their unanimous not guilty verdicts last January.

She said that, but for the children, her marriage could well have failed, as had that of her husband's brother, Ian, to his wife, Laura.

Every day of the trial had been agony, she said, particularly when the jury, which deliberated for nine days, retired to consider its verdict. "The children were very nervous . . . but so was Kevin for God's sake. It was awful. Every night we were saying goodbye."

> "The children were very nervous. It was awful. Every night we were saying goodbye"

When he had not called by 5pm each day she would know that the jury had not come to a verdict and that he would be coming home that night, his overnight bag still packed.

"The children would wait up to see him, and in the morning they would wait to see him before he went, but of course he was leaving at 6am or something so they wouldn't see him and they would be worried about what would happen if he didn't come home that night.

"The children at school occasionally did make remarks, you know: 'Your dad's in court. Your dad's going to prison. My dad says he's going to prison for years and years', and they would come home and I would have to explain to them that it was a possible outcome. You can't say to a child 'No he's not,' because I didn't know what the verdict was going to be."

Mrs Maxwell said that when the family was still living in Chelsea, at a £1.5 million home which they were later forced to sell, cameras would be trained on her kitchen window all day. Once, when she took the children by bus into the West End to see a show just before Christmas, photographers jumped on the bus with them.

"The children were worried because they didn't like this. They were followed to school. The children would come home and say, 'Why was my photograph in the newspaper? What's happening?' and, 'Is this because Grandad Bob died?' "

Mr Justice Buckley, 57, referred several times in his judgment to the stress suffered by the family. "I can understand the expectation built up in the family's mind that an acquittal would be the end of the matter. Mrs Maxwell's bewilderment and anger at the decision to proceed to another trial were not feigned," he said.

"She described the agony of trial and the days waiting for the verdict with the prospect of a significant prison sentence in the balance."

Mrs Maxwell said yesterday: "It is a 24-hour-a-day job raising children. I wanted them to survive the process intact and they have."

Mathilda dashed home from school to say that she had heard the news in the library with her friend. "We just started crying. I was so pleased. Everyone was crying." Flowers and champagne were delivered to the house by wellwishers.

Last night Mrs Maxwell said that there would be no special celebration, just a large family meal.

ANDRE CAMARA



Pandora Maxwell and Teddy, 10. He would ask if his father was coming home

Maxwell hails a 'victory for humanity'

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

KEVIN MAXWELL told yesterday of his relief after five years in which the threat of legal action hung over him.

Sitting under a Hogarth portrait of St Paul in chains pleading before the Roman Governor Felix, he betrayed little emotion but insisted that he could not have got through the "unending pressurised series of litigations" without his wife and his brother.

"Without the support of my wife and my family, and those many friends who stood by me, and without the support of my brother, I would not have survived," he told a press conference minutes after the hearing ended.

In court he had shown barely a flicker of a smile when, with the first words of a 59-minute ruling, Mr Justice Buckley declared that he would not allow the proceedings to continue. Ian Maxwell, a defendant in the first but not the proposed second trial, immediately leant over and clutched his brother's arm.

Outside, on the steps of the High Court, Kevin emerged arm in arm with his brother to describe the judge's decision as "a hell of a moment". Asked for his immediate feelings he said: "I am immensely relieved by the judge's decision. It is a victory for common sense and a victory for humanity.

"My other reaction is just immense relief that the jury's decision in the first trial and the acquittal of all the defendants now counts for something. For the first time in eight months the verdict now stands. We are innocent men. I am very relieved to be going home an innocent man tonight."

The worst moment of the five years, he said later, was on January 26 this year when the Serious Fraud Office announced its decision to proceed with a second trial. He said that he had never flinched from the first prosecution, knowing that it was inevitable after the collapse of his father's media empire with £400 million missing from the pension funds. "But it is hard to explain the hammer blow on January 26 when, seven days after the unanimous verdict of the jury, the decision was taken to go on.

"At that moment I certainly felt persecuted, but today I am just relieved and I do not have any sense of persecution now. I do not want to throw any bricks at anybody, I am just so glad it is over."

He dismissed any prospect of legal action for compensation, saying that he had no intention of returning to court. He said he had no immediate thoughts for his business future, as he was still too numb to take in the judge's decision and wanted only to return home.

He said that it had been a difficult decision to ask his wife, a private person with no involvement in the companies, to give evidence. "I am immensely grateful to her for her courage and sharing with the judge and the court her views on what happened.

> "The verdict now stands. I am very relieved to be going home an innocent man tonight"

"As the judge said, it really was moving. She is a very genuine person and she gave evidence in a typical Pandora way," he said.

His views on his father were more ambiguous. He said he still believed that Robert Maxwell had drowned accidentally, and did not blame him for the troubles that befell his sons. But he added: "I think it will be many years before I resolve in my own mind the questions I have got and the questions about our relationship."

Parents asked to pay exam bill

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SIXTH-FORM college where costs are rising faster than income has asked parents to contribute to examination fees. Long Road Sixth-Form College in Cambridge said it had been forced to make the request to meet its annual £100,000 examination bill.

With 1,500 pupils taking GCSEs or A levels, at an average cost of £120 a head, the college said that success had attracted more pupils without an equivalent rise in funds. Last year the number of students increased by 15 per cent when funding increased by less than 10 per cent. This year the figures are 7 and 1 per cent.

Madeleine Craft, the principal, said: "It's a direct consequence of the Government squeezing the public sector service. While I recognise the need to be efficient and to scrutinise all areas of expenditure, what we are looking at now is cuts which have the potential to damage the expectations of the students.

"Of course students will be allowed to sit exams irrespective of whether their parents have made a contribution. It is entirely voluntary and no records will be kept. I make the point in my letter that not all parents will be able to respond and I accept that."

Six universities plan tuition fees to overcome cuts

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SIX universities are poised to introduce tuition fees next autumn if the Government does not reverse cuts in higher education in November's Budget, vice-chancellors' leaders said yesterday.

Professor Gareth Roberts, the vice-chancellors' chairman, said that up to 20 more universities were likely to follow in 1998, in effect creating a two-tier higher education system. "That is the very last thing that we want but I think it is inevitable unless there is some amelioration of cuts in the Budget".

The vice-chancellors, meeting in Sheffield, drew back from longer-term plans for a national system of fees and larger student loans. They agreed to press for more money from Government and employers before setting the level of student contributions.

Professor Roberts said: "There will be a need for more money from the public purse, more money from employers, who are the beneficiaries of graduates' training, and we do believe that students will have to contribute not just to maintenance but also a proportion of their tuition costs."

There is to be a joint study with the National Union of Students to agree the size of the shortfall in university funding. An extended meeting has been scheduled for December, however, to co-ordinate the universities' response to a Budget Settlement which vice-chancellors expect to be tough on higher education. Among the options will be entrance fees and reductions in student numbers.

Professor Roberts said he expected six universities to introduce fees immediately if last year's 5 per cent cuts were not restored. He declined to name them, but said they would be among the most popular. The London School of Economics is to consider the introduction of fees in November and Huddersfield and Birmingham universities have carried out preliminary studies. Oxford and Cambridge have refused to rule out charging, but are not expected to be among the six pioneers.

Douglas Trainer, the NUS president, said student unions would take action at any university proposing to levy fees. Both the Conservatives and Labour oppose tuition fees, although they expect Sir Ron Dearing's review to pave the way for students to pay for their own maintenance. The vice-chancellors made a submission to Sir Ron's review which called for expansion in higher education.

Education, pages 35 and 36

Opt-opt school holds on to books

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A PRIMARY head teacher is refusing to return 300 overdue library books in a row with the local education authority over his village school's opted-out status.

John Wallace, 49, took the action when the new East Riding unitary authority, Yorkshire, refused to lend books to Wold Newton school because it had left local authority control.

Wold Newton, one of the first five primaries in Britain to opt out five years ago, has doubled its size to 160 pupils and has a long waiting list. It used to pay Humberside County Council £1,000 to borrow 500 books a year.

Labour councillors, the largest group on the hung East Riding authority, have voted to end the ban but the issue is to be re-examined next month. Mr Wallace said: "I would prefer that they continued trading with us while they discuss their policy. We don't get the service free and we are quite happy to pay over the odds for the books."

Audrey Nasar, Labour's education and libraries spokeswoman on the authority, said: "We are looking at what services we are prepared to sell at what price. We owe nothing to Mr Wallace, he took the sweeteners and opted out."

Families face good behaviour contract

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

HEADTEACHERS are to be given legal powers to turn down a pupil for their school if parents refuse to sign a contract promising to ensure the child's good behaviour. Ministers are also considering whether legal sanctions should be drawn up to use against parents if they breach the terms of the contract.

The new law to allow heads to use school-parent contracts as part of their admissions criteria is to be included in the new Education Bill planned for

radical step is part of a package of measures to improve discipline in schools but it will also set out legally the need for parents to retain control of their children and to supervise their schoolwork and behaviour. The tough approach was outlined yesterday in the Government's White Paper on the Citizen's Charter.

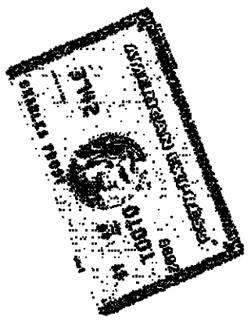
Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary, wants every school in the country to introduce contracts with parents. These contracts — "home-school partnerships" in official jargon — have become a familiar innovation in many schools during the past four to five years. Until

parents' attitude to school contracts into account when deciding whether to offer a place to a child.

Among other initiatives to improve public services launched yesterday by Roger Freeman, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, were publication of data to show the effectiveness of different hospital treatments; new targets to prevent shoplifting and car thefts; a smart-card for use on London Underground trains and buses; 80 new help-points and more closed-circuit television cameras at London tube stations; boards indicating bus waiting times at 4,500 bus stops in London; free computer discs

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...ware listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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'Raffles' blackmailer tells court that Lord Lucan is dead

BY JOANNA BALL

A SELF-CONFESSED thief who claims to be a former friend of the Earl of Lucan told the Old Bailey yesterday that the missing peer was dead. Sacheverelle De Houghton, 56, who says that he was at Oxford with Lucan, was stopped by his barrister before he could elaborate.

De Houghton made the claim during his trial for planning to kidnap a wealthy businessman, torture him into paying a £20 million ransom then kill him with heroin. In evidence he has described himself as a modern-day Raffles involved in 33 years of crime.

Lucan disappeared in 1974 after his children's nanny was beaten to death. De Houghton, who also claims to have been a friend of the zoo owner John Aspinall in the 1960s, said: "I learnt to play poker from the late Lord Lucan. You'll notice I said 'late'. . . ." He was about to explain when Roy Amlot, QC, interrupted, saying: "I don't think we ought to pursue that matter."

The exchange came during a morning of evidence from De Houghton, a fine art thief and convicted blackmailer who claims to have been a Foreign Office high-flyer who turned to crime to pay gambling debts from nights out with Lucan. De Houghton denies conspiring with a co-defendant, Everton Morrison, 30, to kidnap and murder, and inciting him to kidnap and murder.

Yesterday De Houghton claimed that the whole episode had been a fantasy concocted to interest a prison hardman known as Mr A. He was stringing along Mr A so that he could get protection in jail, and possibly organise an escape.

"In prison, a peaceful little trout like myself tries to swim under the fins of the biggest shark he can find," he said. "At this time Mr A was the biggest shark around. None of the loonies would come anywhere near me because of Mr A."

He added: "To put an intelligent man like myself in a rat cage like Whitemoor Prison is a terrible punishment. The only things that kept me going were my love of classical music, particularly Bach, my Catholic faith and the visits of my aunt Muriel."

The jury was told that the alleged plot was a fantasy intended to persuade the police to recommend him for early parole in exchange for information, or to trick Mr A into arranging his escape.

The prosecution says that, through Morrison, De Houghton recruited an undercover police officer to help to kidnap the millionaire. Asked about his relationship with the officer, De Houghton said: "I thought he was a policeman, or more likely from the security services, MI5 or MI6 . . . I didn't know who he was, so I deliberately told him a load of old rubbish."

He added: "I am incapable of contemplating murder as I am a Catholic and I take the rules of the Church seriously. It was foolish of me but you can't imprison me for merely acting foolish. It's all Monty Python's flying conspiracy. I'd have a bloody good laugh about it if it weren't so serious." The trial continues.

Former policeman jailed for using girl as sex toy

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FORMER community policeman who raped a 12-year-old girl and used her as "a sexual toy" was jailed for ten years yesterday.

The girl told Shrewsbury Crown Court that Peter Sharman, 40, of Weston Rhyn, Shropshire, had touched her on many occasions and had raped her several times. She did not tell her parents because she was scared of what Sharman might do.

The girl's mother, in tears in the witness box, said she believed her daughter did not tell her about the abuse because she thought it would upset her. Finally, when her daughter described what had been going on she went to the police.

Sharman was also given concurrent lesser sentences after being found guilty on six charges of attempted rape, gross indecency and indecent assault on the same girl.

After sentencing Sharman, an ex-paratrooper and divorced father of three, Judge Mander said: "It is an appalling case. It is quite obvious that you quite deliberately and wickedly overbore this sad young girl, who became your sexual toy, so that she did not know right from wrong. Anyone who over a long period uses a child, ending up raping her, deserves no sympathy, no mercy, no consideration, no understanding."

Sharman had denied seven charges, but the jury of three men and nine women were out for less than two hours before finding him guilty.

The court was told that Sharman had joined the Parachute Regiment as a teenager and served with them for ten years. He joined North Wales police in 1975 and ended as a community policeman. He remained in the Territorial Army and as a reservist volunteered for work as a medic during the Gulf War.

Sharman received a commendation for saving a young girl from drowning in the River Ceiriog in 1989. He pulled the 11-year-old girl to safety when she fell into the river while playing with friends.

Prince warns over hidden costs of intensive farming

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE Prince of Wales said last night that intensive agriculture could be undermining the health of the nation. He said that the hidden costs of intensive farming would burden future generations financially, and nutritional deficiencies in intensively produced food might rob children of intelligence.

In a lecture to the Soil Association, the champions of the organic farming methods which the Prince uses at Highgrove, he claimed that intensive farming had never provided cheap food because its real costs had never been taken into account. "We have been paying twice," he said, "not only to subsidise intensive farming through taxes, but to restore, partially, the damage that sort of farming creates."

The Prince cited government estimates that "mad cow" disease will have cost taxpayers £1.4 billion by the end of this year in slaughter, compensation and related costs. "The losses are all too real," he said. "Degraded environmental capital is not something one can easily reinstate. We have burdened ourselves and our children with the task of rebuilding what we have destroyed. I fear it may take them most of their lifetimes to do so. And the cost, both for us and for them, will be immense."

Picturing a world of "lost biodiversity . . . ploughed up pastures . . . impoverished arable acres . . . huge reductions in the populations of birds such as skylark and song thrush, and of many of our wild flowers . . . polluted watercourses . . . depleted and eroded topsoil", he referred to the additional cost of "the huge but unquantifiable loss of landscape quality, wildlife and cultural diversity which reduces our genetic resources, depresses the human spirit and makes all our lives less interesting and less fulfilling".

The Prince said that there might be as yet unrealised long-term nutritional costs, because the nutritional deficiences in intensively produced food could undermine the health and intelligence of future generations. He cited an article in the magazine *New Scientist* which reported that the so-called green revolution in South Asia had produced intensively grown crops so deficient in zinc and iron that "an IQ loss of ten points has been observed in a whole generation of children" brought up on a diet largely based on intensively grown crops.

The Prince said that there was no way of knowing that the West was not also threatened with "incapacitating vitamin and mineral deficiencies" which might lead to "an endless cycle of ill-health, low productivity and underdevelopment".

He commented: "There is already a well-documented and, as yet, unexplained decline in male fertility in many European countries, which some people believe may be linked to diet."

The Prince was delivering the 1997 Lady Eve Balfour Memorial Lecture at the Banqueting Hall in London. Lady Eve was a Suffolk farmer and a founding member of the Soil Association, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year.

The National Farmers' Union gave a mixed response to the speech, saying he was highlighting the current debate but was being pessimistic. "The Prince's view is a gloomy one which would not be recognisable to most farmers, who take a great pride in their work their products and their economic welfare and environmental achievements."



The Prince with his farm manager at Highgrove

ROBIN MAYES



The actress and the bishop were innocently matched when Joan Collins returned to her London school yesterday with the Right Rev Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London and school patron. Collins opened a £1.75 million swimming pool and sixth-form complex at the independent Francis Holland (Church of England) School at Regent's Park. She told the 380 girls that a school play first gave her a taste for acting: "It feels very strange to be up on this stage where I made my debut many years ago." She went to RADA after leaving the school at 16.

London is a haven for rare species

BY NICK NUTTALL

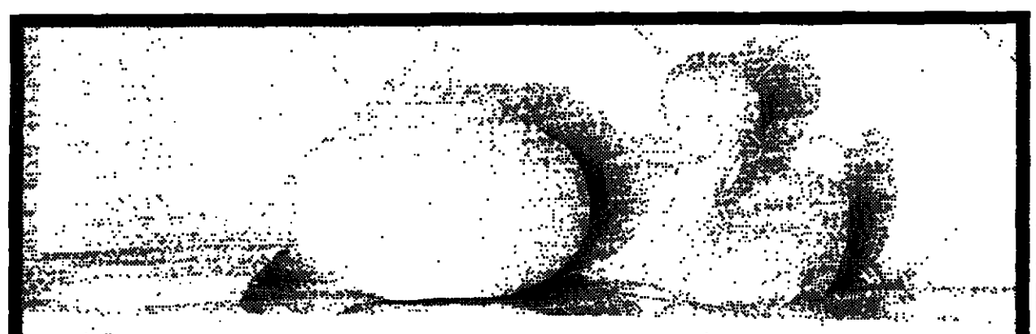
LONDON is emerging as one of the richest places in Britain for wildlife, as intensive agriculture, development and neglect push many species in the countryside to the brink.

Experts, who yesterday launched a conservation strategy for the capital backed by the Government, councils and charities, said that the range of plants and animals in London was proving remarkable. Surveys indicated that many rare species on the decline elsewhere, including the water vole, dormouse, marsh warbler and green-winged orchid, were surviving in London. Some sites in the capital deserved as much protection as the Sussex Downs or the Fens, it was said.

David Bevan, a conservation officer with the London Borough of Haringey, said the capital's railway sidings, commons, gardens and parks had become havens for common but declining species, as well as rare ones. "We have the combination of relic native species, which have miraculously hung on in there, and introduced species that have also thrived." Native bee orchids could be found along the North Circular, and rare green-winged orchids survived at Croydon in south London.

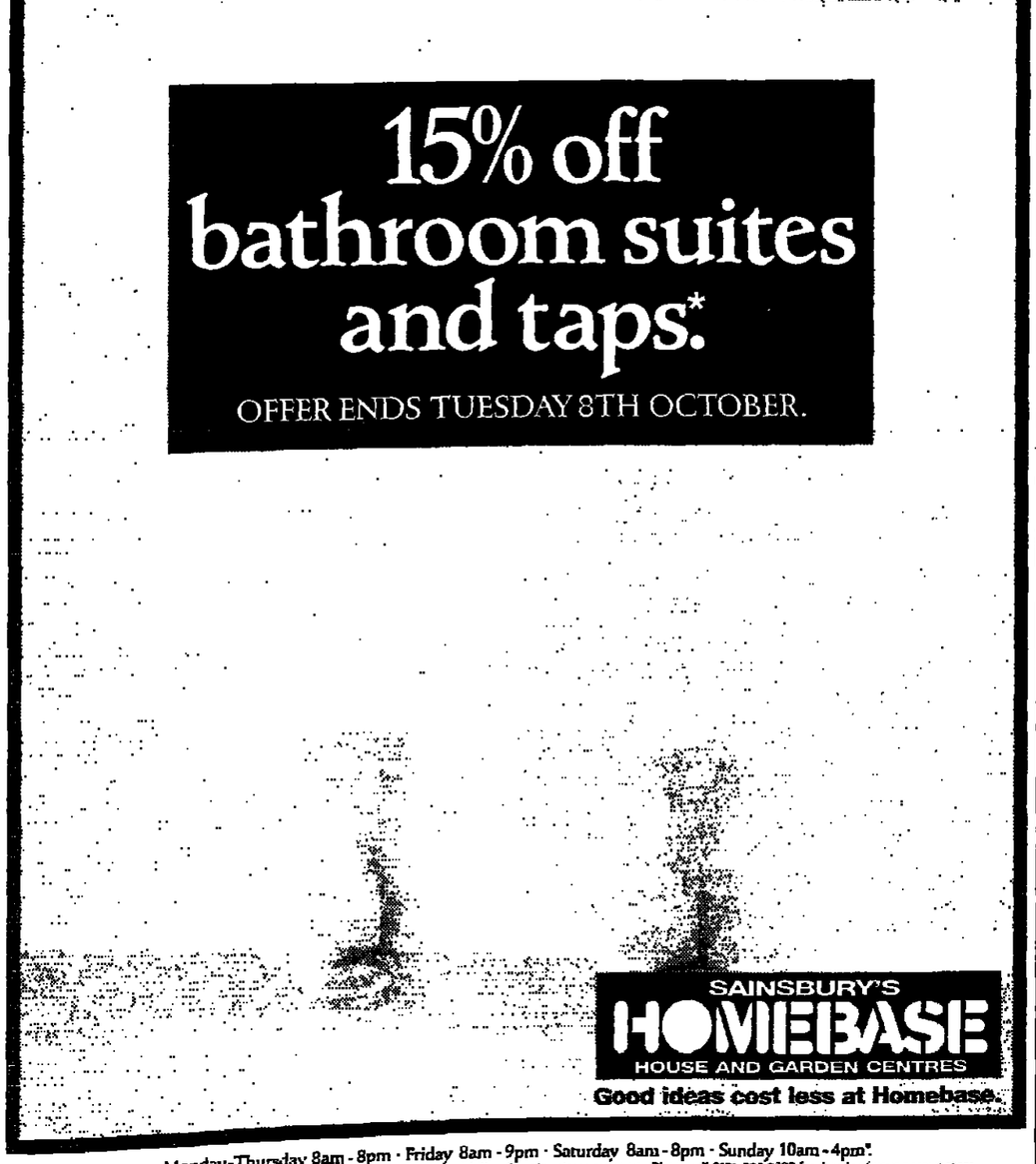
Surveys by groups such as the London Wildlife Trust and English Nature have pinpointed a range of endangered species in need of urgent protection. Common but declining species in need of help have also been identified.

Water voles have been found at several places, including Crane Park Island at Twickenham. Dormice live in Bromley, southeast London. A rare stag beetle has recently been discovered in Hyde Park, and Wimbledon Common is regarded as one of the best dragonfly sites in the South East.



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Modern art comes of age as galleries swap works

BY DALVA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE precise year in which modern art began has been pinpointed by the Tate and National galleries.

They decreed yesterday that 1900 marks the divide between where the National's collection should end and the Tate's modern art should begin. The two galleries will swap Monets, Matisses, Picassos and Pissarros that were painted on either side of the year.

The last such attempt to rationalise the collections was in 1927, when 1870 — the age of Impressionism and the first of the modern movements — was fixed as the beginning of the modern era. Sixty paintings from the "national collections of foreign art" will be exchanged for an experimental period of four years, starting next spring.

Moving 20th-century art from the National and 19th-century art from the Tate means that Picasso's Cubist *Fruit Dish, Bottle and Violin*, as a 1914 work, will go to the Tate in return for works such as Van Gogh's *Farms near Auvers* of 1890. Juxtaposing images by the same artist in the same gallery gives a greater understanding of them than if they are split up: Seurat's *Bathers* at the National will be reunited with a study for it from the Tate.

However, there are complications with artists who worked in both centuries. Monet, for example, will be shared by the two galleries, with later images that bear a more abstract quality viewed as "very much of the 20th century" and therefore suitable for the Tate. Whereas his *Woman Seated on a Bench*, of 1874, will hang at the National, his *Water-lilies* of 1916 will be at the Tate. Cézanne, although often described as the father of modern art, will also be seen at both galleries.



Farms near Auvers, painted by Van Gogh in 1890, is on its way from the Tate to the National Gallery in exchange for 20th-century pictures

Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, said: "It seems to us very important that the collections of this country are where the public expect them to be. When the pictures from the Tate are brought together with the National Gallery's existing holdings, the British public will be able for the first time to see the full extent of the nation's 19th-century French collections and to discover how very rich they are."

Long since the Tate opened in 1897, in response to an urgent need for a national gallery of British art, it has become responsible for British art from the 16th century and international modern art. It was as recently as 1955 that it was made independent from the National Gallery. Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, said: "This is a sign of real co-operation between two sister institutions."

He added: "There was certainly no concern about questions of value, but only thinking in terms of making the best use of the national collection for the public at large."

The directors said that the decision to create the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside had provided a fresh opportunity to reassess the distribution of works. The agreement clarified their collecting responsibilities.

The 1900 divide is not entirely strict. The Tate will continue to keep its British collection, including pre-1900 Constables and Turners. Loans and committed bequests will be unaffected. Discussions are under way with other institutions and the exchanges could extend to collections overseas.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Post strikes suspended by union

Postal strikes due today and Sunday evening have been called off after union leaders decided to re-ballot workers on whether to continue their four-month industrial action. Alan Johnson, the union's joint general secretary, said the dispute had become embroiled in a row about whether workers should be balloted on a package to improve pay and hours that included a proposal on team working. The executive had decided unanimously to call off strikes and seek a fresh mandate for industrial action.

Drugs charge

Police investigating the death of a head boy at a nightclub in Plymouth have charged a 39-year-old woman with supplying amphetamine sulphate. Richard Mulkerrins, 17, died on Tuesday after collapsing at the club. Two youths, aged 17 and 18, were also arrested but have been released.

Ship safety alert

Shipping companies were urged to review lifeboat safety yesterday after a government investigation into a cross-channel ferry accident. Sixteen crew members were pitched into the sea during emergency drill on the P & O Pride of Hampshire in Cherbourg in 1994.

Pond accident

A child was found dead after his mother turned her back for less than a minute, an inquest at Leeds was told. Jordan Newton, 3, fell in a garden pond as his mother, Rachel, 20, of Seacroft, Leeds, took a 39-second telephone call. Verdict: accidental death.

Body unnoticed

The body of a retired car mechanic lay in his garage for ten months before it was noticed he was missing, an inquest was told. Henry Fursse, 59, was found dead in his car at Red Lodge, Suffolk, near his son's home, in August. Verdict: suicide.

Change for £50

Today is the last day that the old-style £50 notes, featuring Sir Christopher Wren, are legal tender. Most banks will accept them for a limited period and the Bank of England indefinitely. Their replacement has a more complex design.

Talked out

A budgerigar said to be the most talented in Britain has died. Candy spoke five languages, including Russian. Its owner, Eileen Trapnell, 49, of Pill, Somerset, had just taught it to sing *The Lord is My Shepherd*. She said: "I am absolutely distraught."

Inquiry call after death at barracks

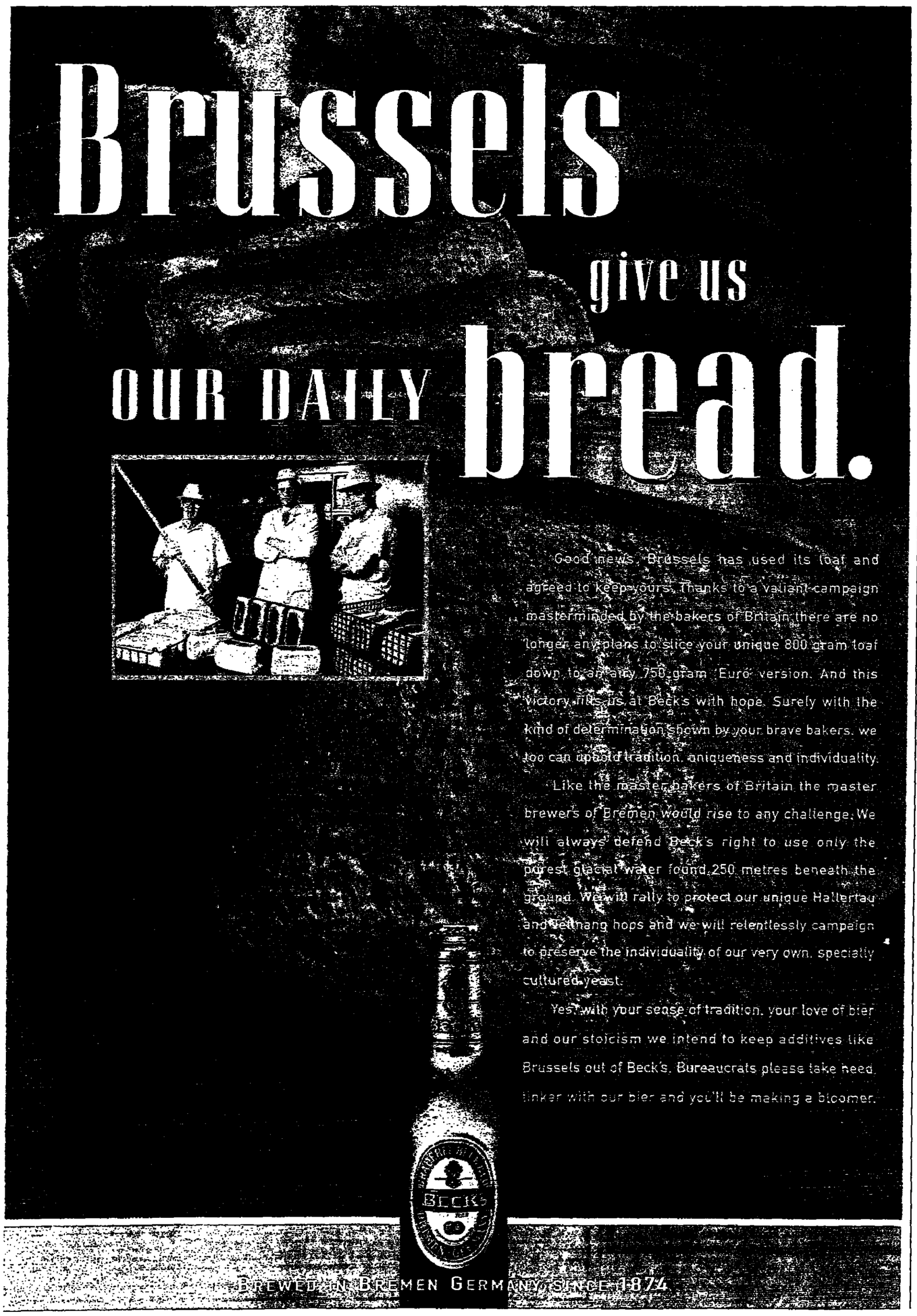
BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE Army was urged yesterday to examine weapons controls within barracks after an inquest was told that a man died after a prank.

Leonard Coyle, the Coroner for Newcastle upon Tyne, said he was astounded by the evidence given during an inquest into the death of Fusilier Gary Riches, 24, of the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers, who was shot in the head while playing with a loaded SA80 rifle at an army base in Bosnia last October. The round also struck Edward Beddoes, a fellow fusilier involved in the horseplay.

Mr Coyle had considered a verdict of unlawful killing on the ground of gross negligence or recklessness, but ruled it out because of confusion over who had pressed the trigger. The weapon had gone off as Fusilier Beddoes leaned from his bunk on to Fusilier Riches, who was holding the rifle.

The inquest had been told that, the previous day, Fusilier Riches's gun was taken from him after he pointed the loaded weapon at other troops while messing about, and that on the night of the shooting the soldiers had drunk more lager than they were permitted. Recording an open verdict, Mr Coyle said "There are a number of disturbing matters which should be exercised in the minds of the MoD."



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Women in twenties abandon Pill for fear of side-effects

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN in their late twenties are abandoning the contraceptive pill apparently because of fears about side-effects, experts said yesterday.

The proportion of women aged 25 to 29 taking the Pill had fallen by more than a fifth since 1993, from 45 to 35 per cent, according to a survey. However, the Pill was increasingly popular among teenagers and those over 30. Among women aged 35 to 44, Pill use had increased since 1993 from 11 to 16 per cent.

The survey is the fifth in a series examining women's attitudes to contraception and sex, undertaken by NOP for the Pill manufacturer Schering Health Care, during the past 13 years. Overall, the survey of 1,000 women showed the proportion of sexually active women not using any method of contraception had increased from 500,000 in 1993 to 850,000. Among teenagers aged 16 to 19, an estimated 150,000 sexually active young women were at risk of unwanted pregnancy compared with 90,000 three years ago.

Last year's scare, in which seven brands of low-dose contraceptive pill were linked with an increased risk of blood clots, triggered an initial 14 per cent fall in overall use but this had since stabilised at a net 4 per cent drop, the survey showed. Anne Weyman, chief executive of the Family Planning Association, said campaigns to reduce teenage pregnancies had increased Pill use in the age group but that women in their twenties tended to be more concerned about side-effects.

Dr David Paintin, chairman of the Birth Control Trust, said the late twenties were the peak age for childbearing and many women would have stopped the Pill in order to start a family. However, this did not explain the sudden fall in popularity of the Pill in the age group since 1993. "Maybe their anxiety has been raised," he said.

In the over-30s, worries about side-effects appeared to have given way to a more sober assessment of the risks and benefits. Women who were combining a job with being a parent appreciated the control the Pill gave over their periods, limiting bleeding and pre-menstrual tension, Dr Paintin said.

"In the over-35s the risks of the Pill race up even in non-smokers but the increase in the chance of thromboses and breast cancer may be balanced by reductions in ovarian and endometrial cancer," he said.

More women were delaying childbirth, and so were continuing with the Pill into their thirties rather than opting for a permanent form of contraception such as sterilisation or their partner having a vasectomy, and doctors were readier to agree to longer use of the Pill.

Among teenagers there were diverging trends, with more using the Pill and more taking no precautions at all. In the 16-to-19 age group, Pill use had increased from 40 to 43 per cent since 1993. Almost one in six of 16 to 24-year-olds were using the combined protection of the Pill and a sheath, apparently because of fear of infection.

However, almost one in ten 16 to 19-year-olds used no protection. Many wrongly believed that the risks of using the Pill were higher than the risks of having a baby. Figures show that the risk of dying in childbirth is ten times higher than from the Pill.



Simon and Manuela Jeans on their wedding day



Private Jeans, pictured in Split, where he served with 14 Transport Squadron

Bedside farewell for family of soldier killed by Croat mob

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE family of the soldier who died after being attacked by a mob in Croatia spoke yesterday about their final moments with him. Private Simon Jeans's German wife, Manuela, said she was grateful that she had had the opportunity to say goodbye to her husband in a military hospital in Surrey.

Mrs Jeans, 23, said that his final words had been about her and their two-year-old son: "He said he loved me and he would always love me. He said 'Take care of yourself and Jason.' He knew he was going to die."

Private Jeans, who was serving with the Implementation Force in Sarajevo, died in Frimley Park Military Hospital after his skull was fractured when he was beaten with baseball bats and iron clubs. He had been in a bar in Split with four other soldiers on Sunday when they were asked to leave, then set upon by about 30 locals.

His brother, Gavin, 19, said all the family had managed to gather at Private Jeans's bedside before he died. "My sister Davina was the last to get there. He waited for her to see him and after that he was gone."

Private Jeans, from Basingstoke, Hampshire, was first taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, where he appeared to recover and was able to chat with his family before relapsing and being transferred. His mother, Geraldine Bennett, 43, said that her son, 25, appeared to relive the the attack while in hospital. "When he was in intensive care in Oxford he actually awoke and called for his friend. He said, 'Don't worry about me, help Jeff.' His hands were clenched as if he was reliving it.

"They had only had one drink. A Croatian came in and started some bother so the barman asked them to leave. When they got outside the Croatians were waiting for them with iron bars. We believe Simon was trying to help one of his friends when the Croatians went past on a moped. One of them whacked him with a bar."

Mrs Bennett added: "There were three things he always wanted. He wanted to go into the Army, he wanted to get married and he wanted a son. He had all those three things. He had a good life. I never regretted him going into the Army."

Private Jeans had been in Bosnia since Christmas and had served in the Gulf War. He is to be buried with full military honours.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Tiny risks are outweighed by effectiveness

DOCTORS must take some of the responsibility for the million women of reproductive age who are revealed by the NOP survey as not bothering with contraception.

Anxieties about the increase in the number of deep-vein thromboses, which is fatal in 1 to 2 per cent of cases, may have dissuaded doctors from recommending the Pill. They have a fear that advising a woman to take the Pill, however usual and possibly life-saving that measure might be, could cause her serious trouble if she is one of the tiny minority likely to have a thrombotic problem.

Since the increased publicity about thromboembolic side-effects of the Pill, it is even more important for doctors to discuss at length the question of relative safety of the contraceptive Pill with the patient. It is a doctor's duty to question patients carefully and to examine them to make certain that they do not have any of the characteristics that might show they have an additional risk of developing embolic phenomena. But once the patients are fully informed, it must be their decision as to whether they want it prescribed.

The pollsters estimate that there are 150,000 late-teenage women who are sexually active but use no contraceptive. Young women in particular do not realise that the risks of developing a deep-vein thrombosis as a result of becoming pregnant are much greater than the small risk to which they are subjected when taking the Pill. If any trusting young woman allows herself to become pregnant, she is four times more likely to suffer thrombosis than if she regularly takes the most commonly prescribed Pill.

Extrapolating from the national statistics, a woman taking the Pill is 20 times more likely to die from influenza, 12 times more likely to have a fatal road accident, more likely to be murdered, twice as likely to have a lethal accident at work and four times as likely to have one at home.

There is always anxiety among would-be Pill takers about the increased risks of strokes and coronary heart attacks. Surprisingly, the slight increase in the incidence of these diseases is smaller in those patients who are taking the third-generation Pill than in those who have reverted to the older preparations. Smoking appreciably increases the risk attached to taking the Pill.

The third question patients ask is about breast cancer. Results of the survey show that any increased risk in developing the disease has disappeared ten years after stopping the Pill and that the incidence of breast cancer is lower in women who stopped taking the Pill 20 years earlier. It seems that, for various reasons, patients on the Pill have their breast tumours diagnosed earlier.

I still recommend the Pill. It is the most effective form of contraception, its risks are exaggerated and it is extremely convenient. I find that I now spend longer discussing its advantages and disadvantages with patients, and I am more careful to recommend against it in the cases of those who display contraindications to its use.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Chocolate joins wine on health food list

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CHOCOLATE may be a vital ingredient in fighting heart disease, and the darker the confectionery the better, researchers in America claim.

In a study that will bring pleasure to cocoa addicts, confectioners and dentists, the winning recipe for good health would be to combine chocolate intake with red wine. Dr Andrew Waterhouse and researchers from California University found that chocolate contains significant levels of phenol, which prevents oxidation of a specific [illegible] fat and density lipoproteins is known to be linked to furring of the arteries, which can lead to heart attacks. A 41-gram piece of milk chocolate was found to contain 205mg of phenol, compared with 210mg in a glass of red wine. Two tablespoons of cocoa had 146mg of phenol. Dark chocolate had more phenol than milk chocolate, the researchers, writing in the *The Lancet*, said.

A spokesman for Cadbury's said: "We've long said there's nothing wrong with chocolate and it can be beneficial as part of a balanced diet. It has many other ingredients that are good for you, such as calcium."

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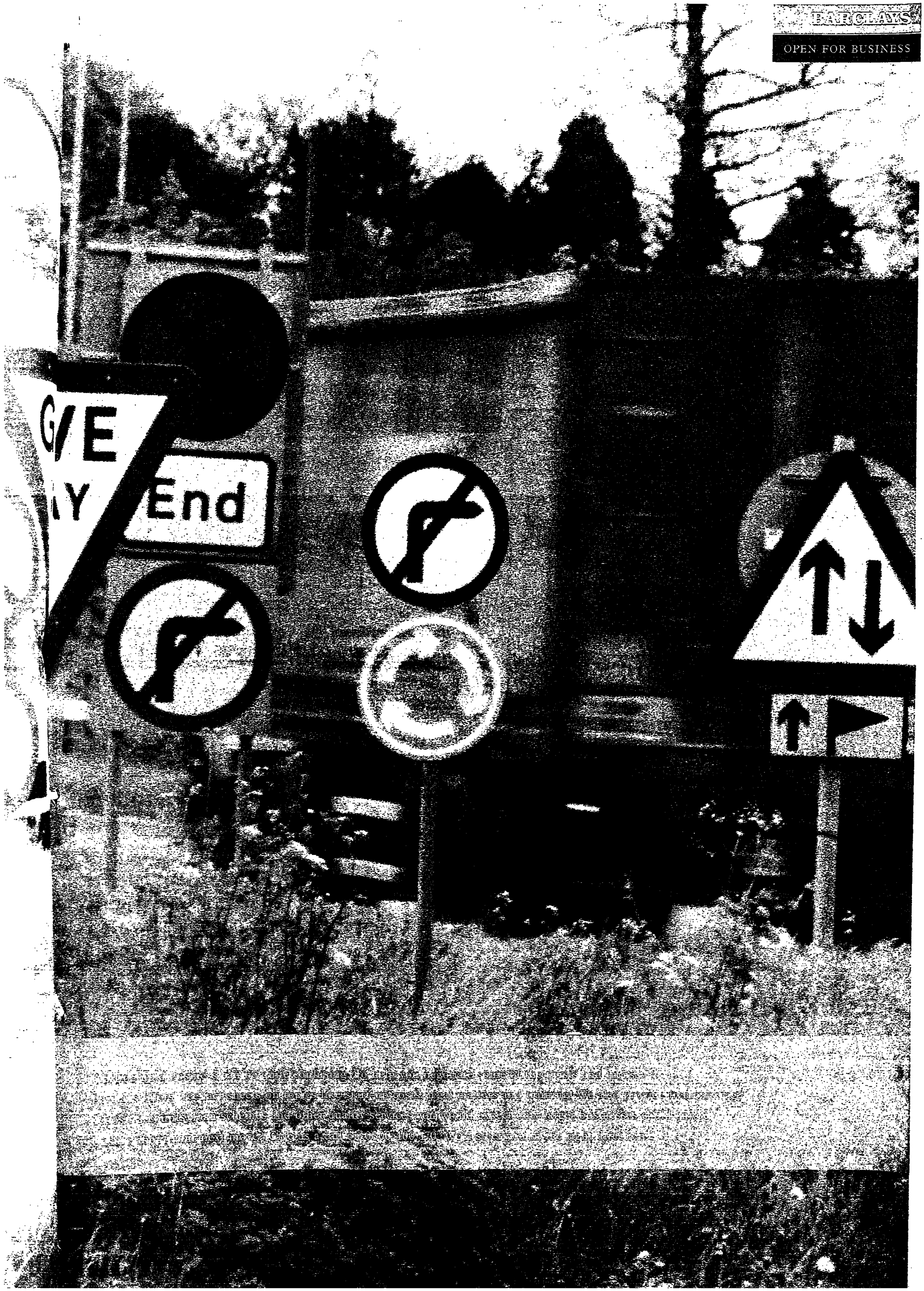
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Grandees shock Tories with the timing of their riposte to the sceptics' noisy campaign

How breakfast plotters hatched Euro fightback

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE plot by the six Tory elder statesmen publicly to challenge John Major over Europe was hatched over breakfast two months ago in a Westminster hotel.

Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission, and Lord Howe of Aberavon planned the rebuke to the "Little Englanders" when they met at St Ermin's Hotel, a short walk from Parliament. The Government's policy of non-cooperation over Europe on BSE, and concessions to the Tory Right in the foreign affairs White Paper dominated the discussion over poached eggs and coffee.

Lord Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, decided that the fiftieth anniversary of Churchill's Zurich speech was the ideal moment to launch a concerted fightback. Crucially, the decision was taken long before the six elder statesmen knew that Malcolm Rifkind was going to make a speech in Zurich on the same day.

The decision was the signal for supporters in an influential network of pro-European organisations to plan a long-awaited fightback against the Euro-sceptics.

Downing Street, which had been alerted that the pro-Europeans were planning to commemorate the Zurich speech, saw the text of the letter only late yesterday morning. John Major and Brian Mawhinney, contrary to their public utterances of support, were aghast at the timing, with the Tory conference looming.

Douglas Hurd, who speaks regularly to Sir Leon and Lord Howe, readily consented to become publicly associated with the fightback. He had already privately expressed his frustration at the failure of members of the Cabinet, and the Prime Minister, to take on the Euro-sceptics. The final straw for Mr Hurd and Lord Howe came when they appeared on a rare public platform together early in July to support the publication by a Tory MP of a pro-European pamphlet, *Time to return to European Sanity*. When it received scant publicity the die was cast.

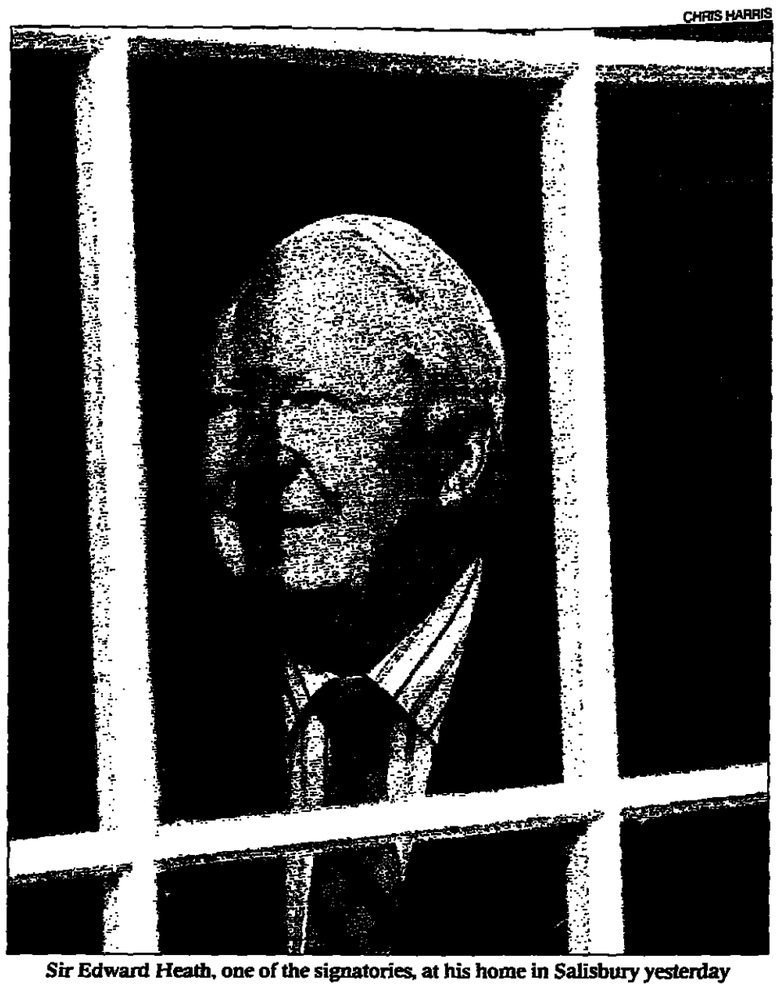
Two weeks ago a letter appeared in the *Financial Times* from 15 businessmen supporting the single currency. It was no coincidence. The forum of pro-European organisations, supported by the six statesmen, helped to orchestrate the letter. It was part of a deliberate attempt to galvanise pro-European opinion in the Tory party against the Euro-sceptics, who Sir Leon and his friends believed were winning the argument because they made more noise.

The letter to *The Independent* was drafted in London by Maurice Fraser, a former political adviser to Lord Howe and Mr Hurd. A copy was sent to Sir Leon. All six read and approved the text and no amendments were made after they had seen Mr Rifkind's speech. Lord Howe was interviewed from Ohio, where he is staying, for Radio 4's *Today* programme. Douglas Hurd went on the offensive again on Radio 4's *World at One*. "It was meticulously planned and organised to the last detail," one Tory source said.

Last night Sir Edward Heath returned to the fray with a speech for the European Movement. The Conservative Mainstream Group, set up to fight for one-nation Tory ideals, holds a one-day conference next week. Europe is on the agenda. The Tory source added: "The life and soul of the Conservative Party is being fought over so mendaciously by the Euro-sceptics, we have no choice but to fight back equally fiercely."

Letters, page 19

CHRIS HARRIS



Sir Edward Heath, one of the signatories, at his home in Salisbury yesterday

Cook sets out future lead role, but ducks EMU row

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK yesterday underlined Labour's determination to take a lead in Europe, but deliberately steered clear of mentioning a single European currency.

As the Tory party row over a single currency escalated, the Shadow Foreign Secretary failed to address one of the most important issues which could face a Labour government.

In a largely pro-Europe speech, Mr Cook said that Britain's future prosperity depended on making a success of membership of the European Union: "To be a major force within Europe is to be taken seriously in Washington, Moscow, Beijing and Tokyo." He backed EU enlargement and called for a new European strategy to combat unemployment, improve competitiveness and promote sustained, non-inflationary growth.

But Mr Cook pointedly refused to clarify Labour's position on a single currency. He is known to be sceptical about rushing into monetary union but Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is unlikely to allow the party to rule out joining EMU in a first Labour parliament.

The party's current policy is to join a single currency if the necessary convergence criteria are met, but leftwingers have already given a warning that Mr Blair would face a revolt if he rushed into EMU.

In his speech - to the Yorkshire Fiscal Group - Mr Cook emphasised that a Labour government would have numerous opportunities to take a lead in setting the international agenda. In autumn 1997 Britain would host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference. In January 1998 Britain would take over as President of the EU and chair the G7 group of leading economic powers. It would host the G7 summit in the summer.

"There has never been such a rich series of opportunities for Britain to take the lead in world affairs," he said. "We cannot afford to fumble them." Mr Cook used a section of his speech to praise Tony Blair's leadership and his modernisation of the party in what was seen as a clear attempt to build bridges after the wrangles last week.

Counter-attack gives Major little room to manoeuvre

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Government is pursuing a policy of studied ambiguity on Europe: it — closer integration or monetary union — won't happen and, even if it does, it won't be for a very long time. Both assumptions are dubious, but John Major and Malcolm Rifkind cannot contemplate any alternative without making the Tory party look even less united than it is anyway.

Yesterday's blast from the St Ermin's Hotel Six is essentially a defensive operation. As Douglas Hurd suggested yesterday, it is a belated expression of frustration that the sceptics have been making the running for too long. The pro-Europeans have now agreed a clear strategy for fighting back.

But hardly any — and certainly not Kenneth Clarke — really believe that a re-elected Conservative Government would take Britain into a single currency in the next Parliament. It would split any Tory Cabinet. The pro-Europeans' aim is to prevent the party shifting too far in a sceptic direction. They want to ensure that in opposition the Tories retain an ambiguous enough position to ensure that they could be reconciled to a single currency in the long term.

In the short term, the pro-Europeans want to pin down Mr Major. They have seen how the promise of a referendum on a single currency did not satisfy the sceptics and what passions were released during the Government's short-lived bout of non-cooperation with Brussels over BSE. They want to prevent any shift away from the policy of refusing to rule out Britain's participation in a single currency in the next Parliament. Both Mr Major and Mr Rifkind have repeatedly stuck to that line on the ground that Britain must retain its influence.

Mr Major is, however, under strong pressure from the sceptics to rule out participation in the next parliament. And many Tory MPs less committed to the sceptic cause see firm opposition to monetary union as a way of differentiating the Tories from Labour on what can be presented in a populist "save our pound" campaign.

Personally Mr Major doubts whether monetary union can work and does not believe any Tory Government would take sterling in. But he is constrained by Mr Clarke, with the crucial support in Cabinet of Michael Heseltine.

Next month's party conference is unlikely to help. Both sides will hold well-publicised fringe meetings. In the background will be the one day mini-summit in Dublin, which the Government is trying to downgrade to ensure its options remain open. By next spring, monetary union may look a probability, rather than a possibility, so it will be harder either for Mr Major, or for Tony Blair, to prevaricate.

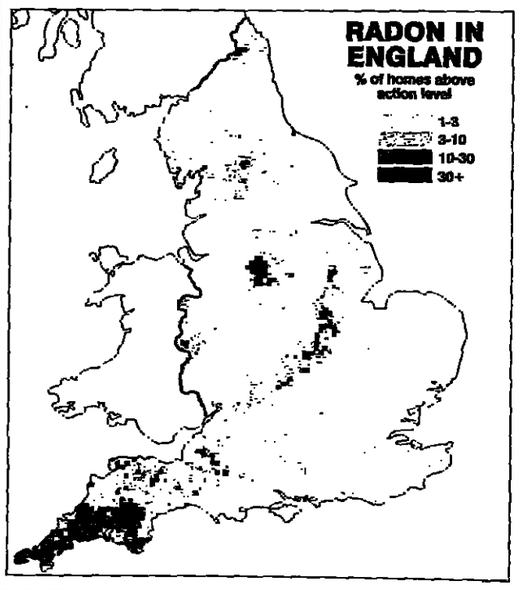
PETER RIDDELL

Daily dose of radiation 'beneficial'

DAILY doses of nuclear radiation should be part of a healthy lifestyle, a nuclear safety expert has said.

John Graham, vice-president of British Nuclear Fuels' US subsidiary, is quoted in *Professional Engineering*, the business magazine of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, as saying there was now "reasonable to good" evidence that low-level radiation was beneficial. Studies on rats in Japan showed that animals given low-level radiation which were then exposed to a high dose were less susceptible to cancers than rats which had not had the low-level doses, Mr Graham told a meeting of the Uranium Institute. "People predisposed to cancer should be given radiation throughout their lives," Mr Graham said.

Map shows spread of radon



BY NIGEL HAWKES

A RADON atlas of England published today shows that contamination with the radioactive gas is more widespread than previously thought.

Based on tests in more than 240,000 homes, the atlas shows that there are pockets of the gas in many counties. The atlas shows what proportion of properties per 5km sq contain a concentration of radon above the level at which measures should be taken to reduce exposure.

The National Radiological Protection Board, which produced the new maps, sets an action level of 200 becquerels per cubic metre. In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, more than 25 per cent of the properties exceed this level and in Devon more than 7 per cent do. Radon is produced in the ground by the decay of uranium and seeps into houses through the foundations.

Buffalo roam the shelves again

WEEKEND SHOPPING

SAINSBURY'S started selling buffalo steaks in selected stores yesterday, the latest attempt to shift an alternative to beef which others have found difficult to get moving. Attempts to create a market for imported buffalo in the 1970s failed and, though the animals are now widely farmed in France, interest in Britain has remained very limited. Tesco reintroduced buffalo in February last year but later abandoned it as being too expensive and slow to sell, turning to selling kangaroo instead.

The sirloin buffalo steak sells at £14.49 per pound, compared to Aberdeen Angus sirloin at £6.29 a lb. The Cromwell Road branch in Kensington, London, which also sells ostrich, said that interest had been slight.

Daphne Hall, 72, a customer, said: "I wouldn't buy it myself. I think it's more for socialites, for people sitting round a dinner table and talking about the fact they're eating buffalo."

Sainsbury's is offering rib-eye steaks of Canadian buffalo at £24 a kilogram (£10.90 a lb) and sirloin at £32 a kg(£14.54 a lb), providing recipe leaflets in stores where the meat is sold to encourage those who are uncertain how the meat, officially classed as game, should be cooked.

Announced promotions include:

Asda: Chicken 2.268kg for £4.49, diced turkey thigh £2.40 per kg, beef topside/silverside £3.94 per kg, winter veg pack 1.5kg for 49p.

Budgens: Whole/half Welsh leg of lamb £5.59 per kg, pork sausages £1.78 per kg, unsmoked Dutch bacon rashers 400g for £1.90, mixed salad and peppers 300g for 99p, baking potatoes £1.49 for 2kg.

Co-op: Kipper fillets with butter 400g for 79p, Cherry Valley crispy Peking duck £3.99, Quorn mince 175g for £1.49, Young's Ocean Pie 255g for 99p.

Iceland: Battered cod fillets four for £2.99, prawns 400g for £2.99, smoked haddock fillets 680g for £2.99, chargrilled quarterpounders four for £1.49, orange and lemon gateau ten portions for £1.99, chocolate cheesecake 400g for £1.99.

Marks & Spencer: Two haddock fillets in light crispy breadcrumbs for £1.69, smoked salmon appetisers 18 for £5.99, homestyle Vienna sandwich or lemon drizzle £1.29 each, Victoria plums £1.49 per kg.

Morrisons: Salmon fillet £2.69 a lb, sardines £1.15 a lb, chicken en croute 312g for £1.69, chilli con carne 454g for £1.19, swedes 15p a lb, savoy cabbages 29p each, Conference pears 39p a lb.

Safeway: Lamb shoulder blade £2.79 per kg, smoked gammon joint 800g for £3.99, honey roast turkey breast 89p a ¼ lb, tomatoes 36p a lb, carrots 19p a lb, white potatoes £1.36 for 5kg.

Sainsbury's: Fresh topside £4.39 per kg, lamb mince £4.79 per kg, salmon fillet 300g for £2.75, Charlotte potatoes £1.26 per kg, closed cup mushrooms 750g for £1.69, English plums 49p a lb.

Somerfield: Whole chickens 69p a lb, rump steak £8.04 per kg, bone in pork loin joint £5.20 per kg, fresh tiger prawns 113g for £1.99, mixed peppers 79p a pack, baking potatoes 17p a lb.

Waitrose: Farmhouse chicken up to 1.8 kg £2.65 each, stuffed turkey thigh 800g for £3.59, frozen peas 907g for 99p, Victoria plums 55p a lb, French peaches four for 99p.

ROBIN YOUNG

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Teenagers who chanted 'white bastard' as they stamped on man's head are given long sentences

Race attack left victim in coma

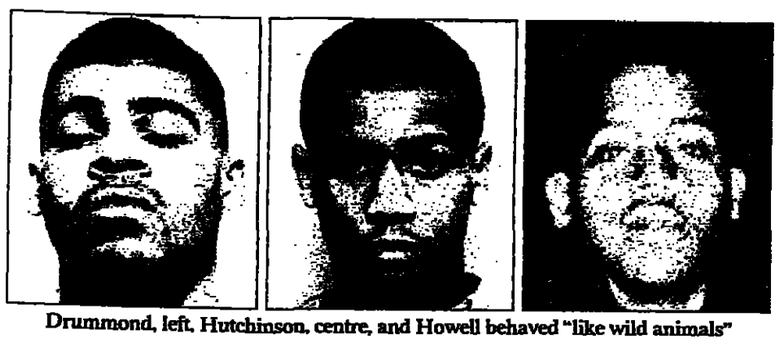
BY A STAFF REPORTER

THREE black teenagers left a young man in a coma after stamping on his head while chanting "white bastard", a court was told yesterday. The judge jailed them for a total of almost 35 years and told them that they had behaved "like a pack of wild animals".

Doctors feared that Gareth Wilshaw would be left in a permanent vegetative state after he was punched to the ground and kicked in the head up to 30 times. Danau Drummond, Marlon Howell and Gary Hutchinson, all 18, shouted racist abuse as they repeatedly stamped on Mr Wilshaw while he lay motionless, Nottingham Crown Court was told.

Mr Wilshaw, 24, who was in a coma for three months, suffered brain damage and had still not recovered sufficiently to give evidence against his attackers. His brother Robert, 36, said after the sentence: "When they come out they will be able to walk. Gary may never walk again."

Mr Wilshaw, a car mechanic, was the main victim of a string of unprovoked attacks led by Drummond, who was enraged at being thrown out of a nightclub on December 23 last year. Philip Ellis, who saw the assault, told the court: "It was disgusting. It wasn't just kicking, it was stamping on his head. I could hear them shouting 'white bastard'. It was the longest minute I have ever known. My natural instinct was to go and help, but my sense told me not to, otherwise I would probably have been with him now."



Drummond, left, Hutchinson, centre, and Howell behaved "like wild animals"

The court was told that the youths were later spotted by a security guard who heard one boast, "Did you see the way I did him?" as he mimed kicking somebody. The gang was responsible for three other attacks the same night as Drummond, who lost a ring when he was thrown out of the club, vented his anger on anyone he came across. Howell later told police: "He said his ring was worth a lot of money, so somebody would have to pay."

The attack on Mr Wilshaw was so savage that when his parents, Ron and Yvonne, first saw him in hospital he still had the imprint of a shoe over one eye. He is expected to remain in hospital at least until next month. He still has difficulties with his speech.

Drummond, of Spondon, Derby, was sentenced to ten years in a young offenders' institution after admitting causing grievous bodily harm with intent. He was given a further 30 months, to run consecutively, after admitting wounding a man in an earlier attack, leaving him needing 34 stitches.

The court was told that, in that attack, Drummond subjected the man and his girlfriend to "a torrent of abuse", shouting and calling his victim a "white honky". Drummond had walked free from court two days before the attack on Mr Wilshaw after being sentenced to 24 hours at an attendance centre for an offence of assault.

Howell, of Normanton, Derby, and Hutchinson, of Spondon, denied the charge but were convicted at the end of a trial last month. They were each given 11 years in a young offenders' institution.

Judge Dudley Bennett said: "You three participated in an entirely, absolutely, completely unprovoked, vicious and sustained attack upon a young white youth who simply had been going out and enjoying a pre-Christmas drink. There is the plainest evidence that the attack was at least in part a racially motivated attack."

He said that Mr Wilshaw would never recover: "You have ruined his life forever. No sentence I pass on you can ever compensate for that."

He said that the sentences were not only to punish the three but also to deter others. "There are far too many gangs of youths prowling through the streets in the late hours causing this kind of trouble."

Barristers for the three said that none had set out with violence in mind that night and that they and their families would suffer for years from their actions.



Gareth Wilshaw, seen with his parents before the attack, may never walk again

Church in Wales votes for women priests

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 80 women deacons are to be ordained priests after the Church in Wales yesterday became the last of the four Anglican churches in the British Isles to accept them.

The two-thirds majority needed to admit women into the priesthood was achieved by one vote when clergy of the Church in Wales, meeting in Lampeter, Cardiganshire, accepted the bill after an emotional debate. The clergy had voted against change when it last came before the governing body two years ago, although it was supported then, as now, by the bishops and laity.

The Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, said that to continue opposition to women priests would leave Welsh Anglicans isolated and split from the rest of the church. "We will just be a forgotten province of the Anglican Church," he said.

After the meeting, jubilant women deacons hugged one another in celebration. The women had warned of defections to the Church of England if the Bill was defeated again. The Church in Wales first ordained women deacons in 1980, five years after the Church of England.

☐ The Rev David Holloway, vicar of Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, a leading evangelical, yesterday urged the Prince of Wales to renounce Camilla Parker Bowles and lead a celibate life. He said that otherwise the Prince could not become Supreme Governor of the Church.

Rapid rise in number of cancer sufferers

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people suffering from cancer is increasing sharply, figures published yesterday disclosed. Deaths from cancer have also risen.

New cases of the disease in women rose by 30 per cent between 1979 and 1991, from 83,100 to 107,900. In men new cases rose by 21 per cent from 86,200 to 104,200.

The Office of National Statistics, which published the figures, said some of the increase in new cases was due to the ageing of the population. After allowing for this, the rise is estimated at 20 per cent among women and 10 per cent among men.

Experts say that some of this rise is due to better diagnosis and improved registration but, even allowing for these, there was a real increase.

The figures demonstrate that despite millions spent on research that has yielded significant advances in the laboratory, these have not been translated into effective treatments. And although spectacular progress has been made against certain cancers, such as childhood leukaemia and testicular tumours, little success has been achieved against common forms such as lung and bowel cancer.

The figures show that more than half of all cancers occurred in those aged 65 to 79. Only 6 per cent of cancers in men and 9 per cent in women occurred in those under 45. There were 1,200 cancers in children under 15, one third of them leukaemia.

BT prepares to halt calls to prostitutes

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

BT HAS sent its first 67 warning letters to prostitutes advertising their services in public telephone boxes. Those who ignore the warnings risk having all incoming calls to their numbers blocked by the end of the month.

BT announced its clean-up of telephone boxes last month. In the past three weeks security guards have collected 20,000 prostitutes' cards from kiosks in Westminster City Council's area. The telephone numbers have been fed into a computer and warning letters sent to the most frequent ones.

"Some totally different cards have got the same telephone number," BT said. "The method we are using enables us to pinpoint the addresses which are most in use by the prostitutes."

"Carders", who claim to earn up to £100 a day placing the numbers in telephone boxes, have ignored warnings that lines will be blocked. Council cleaners are still removing up to 150,000 cards a week from the 700 boxes in the council area.

If any of the 67 addresses sent a warning appear on newly distributed cards, the computer will spot them. A second warning will be sent next week. If that is ignored, incoming calls will be blocked.

An earlier attempt to block lines was thwarted by Oftel, which upheld a complaint from a prostitute that the move was illegal. The new method has been worked out with legal advice, although a London prostitutes' group has threatened to challenge BT in the courts if lines are blocked.

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Seoul troops kill seven on bungled spy raid by North

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO AND NICHOLAS LONG IN SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA denounced a bungled infiltration attempt as "military provocation" yesterday as its troops shot dead seven North Koreans on the second day of a manhunt that has dramatised the enduring Cold War hostility between the two neighbours.

"This is not a simple spy case: I regard it as a kind of military provocation," President Kim Young Sam told a Cabinet meeting.

Tension escalated after the killings when a North Korean submarine crewman revealed under interrogation that his unit had completed a spying mission against a South Korean airfield at Kangnung on the eastern coast. He said it was the fourth mission the spy submarine had undertaken since the beginning of September.

Those killed yesterday were cut down by automatic fire as they crouched by a stream to drink, according to military sources in Kangnung. They were dressed in blue jeans and sneakers made in South Korea.

The killings brought to 18 the number of North Koreans who have died since their submarine ran aground off Kangnung on Wednesday. Last night thousands of troops and police with sniffer dogs continued to comb thickly wooded mountains near the coast in the hope of tracking down another five infiltrators who came ashore from the submarine.

Seoul security forces believe survivors of the unit are fleeing through the mountains towards the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas, about 50 miles from where the submarine ran aground. But the total number of intruders is still unclear.

The captive North Korean is reported to have told military interrogators that a total of 25 people were on board the submarine, rather than 20 as he said initially.

The man, Lee Kwang Su, 31, was also reported by the South Korean media to have disclosed that the mission was aimed at conducting reconnaissance on South Korean naval facilities and the strategic airport at Kangnung. General Shin Kang Kil, briefing reporters, said the captive had refused to discuss his mission until he began to talk under the influence of alcohol.

"He at first refused to answer, saying he feared for the lives of family members in the North," said General Shin. "But after drinking four bottles of *soju* (Korean whiskey) his tongue loosened."

A former North Korean agent, Lee Won Bok, who defected previously, was quoted yesterday as saying that the North had at least 1,000 infiltration agents, including all-female squads.

Defence Ministry officials in Seoul said the North typically uses small teams of trained agents for espionage operations and were surprised by the size of the latest contingent. It was unclear how many of the North Koreans were agents or commandos and how many were crew members on the submarine, which remained stranded on a coastal reef yesterday.

Defence Ministry officials in Seoul said ten of the North Koreans found dead on Wednesday may have been shot by their leader to avoid capture once they realised the mission had failed. The eleventh man then took his own life.

Incursions by North Korean agents and commandos are nothing new, but this is the most serious incident in recent years, deepening the antagonism between the two Koreas felt since the Korean War ended in 1953.

Leading article, page 19

NASA TV-AP



Shannon Lucid greets *Atlantis* astronaut William Readdy after the shuttle docked with Mir to take her home

Spacewoman hails earthbound 'limousine'

New York: Shannon Lucid, America's marooned spacewoman, hugged and joked with Nasa astronauts who yesterday arrived to take her back home from Mir, the Russian space station where she has spent the past six months (Quentin Letts writes).

A thrilled Mrs Lucid, smiling broadly, referred to the Atlantis space shuttle as "my limousine" and made clear that she was more than ready to exchange Mir, and the (albeit friendly) company of two Russian cosmonauts, for life on Earth. She pinched her American colleagues to make sure that she was not dreaming. She was originally scheduled to spend four months in orbit, but her stay on Mir was forcibly extended when Atlantis was delayed by technical problems and by bad weather. Mrs Lucid, who has had to make do with sponge baths and dried rations since March, greeted the Atlantis crew members with a tray of bread and salt — a Russian expression of welcome.

☐ Seattle: President Clinton is abandoning President Bush's initiative to put a man on Mars by 2019, it was reported last night, and instead committing Nasa to putting a robot on the red planet by 2000. (AP)

Peking carpets sex case general

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A CHINESE general has been disciplined for making sexual advances to a woman soldier from the turbulent Muslim region of Xinjiang.

According to a Reuter report from Peking, General Qu Cong was on an official visit to North Korea when he unsuccessfully demanded sex from the woman, a Uighur from Xinjiang, a northwestern region shaken by revolt against Chinese rule since the 19th century. Official sources are tight-lipped because the affair is "very sensitive". General Qu's promotion to head the army's Art Academy has been blocked after a report ordered by President Jiang Zemin, who is also chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Xinjiang, a vast region containing most of China's 20 million Muslims, is more restive than Tibet, partly because its people are linked to restive Muslims across the border in the former Soviet Union. Like Muslims elsewhere, the Uighurs' religious faith is closely associated with their fierce nationalism.

In May the official *Xinjiang Daily* reported a tightening of security after Uighur "splittists" killed six or seven Han Chinese and a pro-Han mullah was murdered.

Bernard Levin, page 18

Women infuriated by Italian 'charter' for wife-beaters

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN women were furious yesterday after a Supreme Court ruling in Rome that it is not a crime for a jealous man to beat his wife so long as he does not make a habit of it.

The court sent back for reconsideration an eight-month prison sentence originally imposed by the Palermo Court of Appeal on Francesco Lombardo, 42, a Sicilian bricklayer, who argued that he hit and kicked his wife Anna, 40, a mother of four, "only because of jealousy" and that the attack four years ago was only an occasional episode even though she had to receive medical attention. The Supreme Court ruled that wife-beating was a crime only if it was "planned and systematic" and if there was "a grave intention to humiliate and oppress" the woman.

The Supreme Court took into account a plea for clemency for her husband made by Signora Lombardo. "Please clear him: my husband is a good person. He only hit me during an argument in which we were both angry.

"He was a little jealous and his work was going badly. Do not condemn him because it would make our lives even more complicated," she said.

Leading feminists such as Tina Lagostena Bassi, a prominent divorce lawyer, condemned the Supreme Court ruling. "Asking the victim to demonstrate that the maltreatment is continuous is diabolical," she said. "This is why so many violent husbands remain unpunished and why we have known so many stories of deaths that were waiting to happen."

Signora Lombardo said that during their fight "one word led to another and he began to scream. At a certain point he exploded and I do not remember if he gave me a slap or a punch." She went with her mother to hospital in the Palermo suburb of Capaci where she received treatment from doctors who said she would need seven days to get well. Police following up a hospital report charged her husband and he was convicted and sentenced to a year in prison by a local court. The sentence was reduced to eight months on appeal.

Anna Finocchiaro, Minister for Equal Opportunity in the Centre-Left Government, also weighed in, saying: "Urgent measures are needed to keep a violent husband out of the home." The minister challenged the Supreme Court ruling which, she said, amounted to saying "there was no wish for oppression but 'only' jealousy". She added: "In this way, in the end one could say that there are good bruises and bad bruises, that there is violence with good intentions because there is no desire to oppress. But violence always is a crime."

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Stumbling Dole adds to image of an old man

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE sought solace in Las Vegas yesterday after a calamitous foray into California to protest against the moral laxity of Hollywood and President Clinton.

The 73-year-old Republican fell 4ft off a stage and landed on his back. He praised the Brooklyn Dodgers, forgetting that the team had moved to Los Angeles and changed its name in 1958. He also denounced *Pulp Fiction* and the recent British film *Trainspotting*, claiming that they glamorised heroin. Aides admitted he had seen neither film, and *Pulp Fiction*'s director demanded an apology.

Mr Dole visited Los Angeles to continue his crusade against drugs, an issue on which he feels the baby-boomer President is vulnerable. He recalled how Mr Clinton had laughed when asked in 1992 if he would inhale marijuana given a second chance and replied: "Sure, if I could. I tried before." That, said Mr Dole, showed Mr Clinton's "moral confusion" and unfitness to lead.

Mr Dole then demanded Hollywood "stop the commercialisation of drug abuse, stop the glorification of slow suicide", and singled out *Trainspotting* and *Pulp Fiction* as films that promoted "the romance of heroin".

Trainspotting, a film about young working-class heroin addicts in Edinburgh, was not a Hollywood movie but was released in America by a division of Walt Disney. The main character at one point extols heroin, but it also portrays the tragic consequences of addiction: Aids, death, violence and squalor.

Quentin Tarantino, *Pulp Fiction*'s writer and director, denied that his film glamorised heroin. "I've never seen a politician so consistently give opinions about issues he knows nothing about," he said. Nelson Warfield, Mr Dole's press secretary, said the candidate had read reviews of both films and argued: "You don't have to look in every trash can to know there's garbage inside."

From Los Angeles, Mr Dole flew north to a rally in the town of Chico. As he leant over a balustrade around the stage to shake supporters' hands, it broke and he tumbled into a group of photographers. He was helped to his feet by Secret Service agents. He made light of the accident, joking that he had "fallen for Chico", and aides said the fact he emerged unscathed showed his toughness. But the damage was done. Every newspaper and television station had the perfect visual metaphor for Mr Dole's floundering campaign. His widely-reported reference to the Brooklyn Dodgers in his Los Angeles speech was another mini-disaster. It reminded voters of his age, and was the latest of a string of similar gaffes that have plagued his campaign.

He has talked of the epitaph he wants on his tombstone. He keeps visiting graves — his great-great-grandfather's, his parents', Richard Nixon's. He boasted of receiving a "shot in the arm" from a meeting with former President Reagan, who is 85 and slowly dying of Alzheimer's disease.

In his convention speech, Mr Dole offered himself as a bridge to the past. He has toured California's "death row" and a New Hampshire brewery that made Old Man Ale, and would have visited a New Jersey lifejacket factory had bad weather not grounded his plane. During a visit to a small Ohio town last week he bought a pair of long johns.

The image of Mr Dole as a geriatric is unfair — he has tremendous energy — but it is taking hold. A recent poll asked 610 Americans to gave a one-word description of Mr Dole and 118 said "old" — seven times more than the next most common adjectives which were "good" and "conservative".

Two national polls yesterday put Mr Dole 13 and 17 points behind Mr Clinton. State polls put him five points behind in Florida, which has not voted for a Democrat in 20 years, and just one point ahead in Virginia, which last voted for a Democrat in 1964.

RICK T. WILKING/REUTER



Bob Dole slips from a 4ft stage after a balustrade gave way in Chico, California, during a campaign speech. "I have fallen for Chico," he said

WORLD SUMMARY

Swiss give Holocaust Jews £½m

Zurich: The Swiss Government promised SwFr1 million (£500,000) to two Holocaust groups yesterday. The gesture was sought by Jewish groups following Switzerland's apology last year for turning back refugees from Nazi terror.

The decision came as pressure mounted on the Swiss Government and Swiss banks to pay back Nazi wealth and Jewish accounts left ownerless by Holocaust victims. The payment was described as "part of our normal duty as a civilised nation". *(Reuter)*

China attacked over changes

Peking: Britain told China that plans to establish a provisional legislature in place of the current elected body when it takes over Hong Kong next year is "unjustified, unnecessary and a serious disruption" (James Pringle writes). "The great majority of people in Hong Kong want continuity and a smooth transition," said Hugh Davies, the senior British representative on the Joint Liaison Group, which is handling the transition.

Debate curbed in Zimbabwe

Harare: The Mugabe Government used its 147-3 majority in the Zimbabwean parliament to guillotine debate on a motion of no confidence from the opposition leader, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole (Michael Hartnack writes). The motion is expected to be amended to congratulate President Mugabe on his 16-year rule.

Gujarat to be ruled by Delhi

Delhi: President Sharma of India dismissed the government of Gujarat state and imposed federal rule after the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) pushed through a confidence vote by 92 to 0 in a state legislature session marred by violence. All opposition members had been suspended by the acting Speaker, a BJP member. *(Reuter)*

Reprieve after 44 years on run

New York: A Brooklyn Freemason, known for his community work, has spent 44 years on the run from a Florida chain-gang (Quentin Letts writes). Eddie Brown, 64, was arrested after his past came to light but set free by a New York judge who declared him to be a changed man.

Luckless Perry faces claims of more Gulf War poisoning

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE announcement by the Pentagon yesterday that a further 5,000 troops who served in the Gulf War had been exposed to chemical weapons crowned an embarrassing fortnight for William Perry, the Defence Secretary, whose future appears increasingly uncertain.

During testimony before Congress the previous day, Mr Perry had finally admitted responsibility for failed leadership in the deaths of 19 American servicemen in Saudi Arabia in June.

He had just returned from a singularly unsuccessful diplomatic shuttle trip to the Middle East, aimed at rallying the coalition against President Saddam Hussein as America dispatched further troops, aircraft carrier battle groups and other military hardware to the region.

And it was the Defence Secretary who, the previous week, had made the most forthright statements about "disproportionate" response to any further provocations from Saddam after 44 ineffectual American airstrikes against Iraqi targets.

The notification yesterday to veterans of the Gulf that thousands more troops may have been exposed to chemical weapons during the war, rather than the initial 150 discussed earlier this year, can only further claims of a cover-up during Mr Perry's tenure at the Pentagon.

Formerly the department's deputy, the normally soft-spoken academic had never sought the top post at the Pentagon in 1994 after the resignation of Les Aspin over the Administration's accelerated efforts to allow homosexuals into the military.

Instead President Clinton had selected a retired admiral after pursuing Senator Sam Nunn and others deemed "Washington superstars". Exasperated by his inability to find a successor, Mr Clinton had finally turned to Mr Perry, a man widely respected in the defence community for his first-hand knowledge of weapons' technology but someone with little administrative or foreign policy experience.

A successful early tenure started to sour earlier this year with revelations of cheating and drug scandals at the Annapolis Naval Academy followed by the suicide of Admiral Mike Boorda, the Chief of Naval Operations, amid talk of senior officers currying political favour from the Clinton Administration.

In July, Mr Perry himself came under attack for being the only member of the Cabinet to indulge in the costly procedure of midair refueling, an action normally reserved for combat missions. His one-way flight to Sydney had cost an estimated $137,729 (£88,000).

After the death of US airmen in Dhahran leading Republicans, including Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, called for Mr Perry to accept responsibility and resign.

In a belated *mea culpa* this week, Mr Perry defended the senior officers who had failed to secure the housing complex in Saudi Arabia. "I will not seek to delegate responsibility for this tragedy on any of my military commanders," he said. "To the extent this tragedy resulted in the failure of leadership, that responsibility is mine and mine alone."

Mr Perry has given no indication that he will stand down and is unlikely to do so before the election. He is not expected to serve in a second administration.

Senior national security aides have talked of him as a "loose cannon" since an incident in which, at a time when Bosnia was thought to be an electoral minefield, he admitted that American troops wold remain in the region for more than a year.

'Lord God' damns his creation

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE international supermodel Claudia Schiffer was bluntly told to retire yesterday by her former mentor, Karl Lagerfeld.

In an episode that, even by the tart standards of supermodelling, seemed unnecessarily cruel, Schiffer, 26, learnt from Lagerfeld that she was "out in terms of fashion".

The Chanel designer told a continental newspaper: "She grew up in another world, another fashion, another time. She should no longer model." He commented that "Claudia would have been a wonderful Hollywood silent star".

Lagerfeld was credited with making her a star in the late 1980s, but in recent months he has switched his allegiance to another, younger model, Stella Tennant of Britain.

The Schiffer camp promptly mounted a damage-limitation exercise and accused the autocratic Lagerfeld of considering himself to be "the Lord God".



Claudia Schiffer, described as "out in terms of fashion"

Chips down for blue Wall Street

BY QUENTIN LETTS

WALL STREET'S traders, the sharpest-toothed dogs of capitalism, have been told to watch their language.

The US National Association of Securities Dealers, which regulates the conduct of about 530,000 financial brokers across the United States, has demanded an end to the swearing that traditionally has decorated life on the

ing them that "the use of profane or obscene language", either to clients or to colleagues, may in future be punished by four-figure fines.

Reid Walker, a spokesman for the Washington-based association, said yesterday that bad language was damaging the credibility of the market. He added: "It is better for business if you work professionally. This is about behaviour, not just random words."

described vividly in books such as Michael Lewis's *Liar's Poker*, with office bullies vying to out-oath one another and uttering foul descriptions of office juniors in their presence. In the tension generated by fast-moving markets, the trading floor vocabulary can be lurid, especially when an underling makes a costly mistake.

One trader said yesterday: "Bad language is part of life

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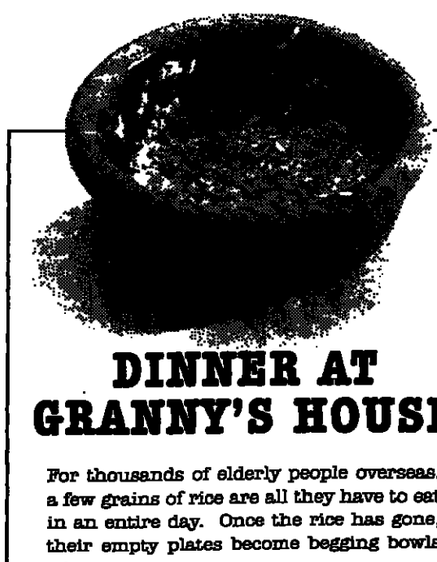
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Solana: praise for role of Russian troops in Bosnia

Nato offers Kremlin closer ties as new admirers wait in wings

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MOSCOW is to be offered a new strategic relationship with Nato that will be close to an equal partnership without Russia becoming a member of the alliance.

An arrangement already exists under which the Russian foreign and defence ministers attend meetings with Nato, referred to as the "16 plus one" format. Now, according to one senior Nato source yesterday, a new idea is to develop a "one plus one" format which will raise the profile of the relationship, putting Russia "almost on an equal footing" with alliance members.

Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General, is due to meet Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, in Vienna today and will discuss with him the latest ideas, which also include signing a formal charter to make the new partnership legally binding. In a lecture to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London yesterday, Señor Solana said: "We are coming very much nearer to the substance of a new and permanent relationship with Russia. Our relationship with Russia will not be an optional add-on: it will be part of a new Nato in which there will be constant dialogue and interchange."

Señor Solana's meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister, who is judged to be the principal figure in Moscow dictating the way forward for Russian policy, comes a few days before Nato defence ministers will be meeting in Bergen, Norway, to discuss the plan to open its doors to new members before the end of the century. General Igor Rodionov, the new Russian Defence Minister, will also be at the meeting on Wednesday. Alliance officials said Moscow now "assumed" that Nato would go ahead with its plan to expand eastwards, and was trying to get the best deal it could in return, whether in the form of stronger bilateral relations with America, or an arrangement with the World Bank, or some pledge about limiting Nato military infrastructure in the new member states.

In his lecture to the institute, Señor Solana said he believed a decision to invite several nations "to begin accession negotiations" would be made by a Nato heads of government summit next year. However, he also emphasised the importance of developing a policy for those countries who would not be included in the first tranche of new membership. The existing Partnership for Peace (PfP) scheme, which has developed new links between Nato and non-Nato countries, would have to be enhanced, he said. He described the next stage of the policy as a "PfP-plus" arrangement.

In his meeting with Mr Primakov today, Señor Solana also plans to focus on the role of Nato and Russian troops serving together in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This successful partnership in the Nato-led Implementation Force (Ifor) — Russian troops are serving alongside American soldiers, patrolling the Posavina corridor in northeast Bosnia — is increasingly being seized on by the alliance as an example of how the new strategic relationship with Moscow can blossom.

The alliance's current mission in Bosnia, which Señor Solana said must be continued next year, is also being used by potential Nato candidates, including the Czech Republic, to demonstrate their suitability for membership. Prague's troops in particular have been praised by Nato commanders in Bosnia.

Frail Pope begins testing visit to wavering France

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE POPE arrived in France yesterday for a four-day visit that will test his failing health and the faith of a country which largely disapproves of his conservative stance on contraception, abortion and homosexuality.

His visit to France is his last foreign trip before he enters hospital in Rome early next month for surgery on what the Vatican says is an inflamed appendix.

The Pope landed at Saint-Symphorien airbase near Tours, 120 miles southwest of Paris, on board a special Alitalia flight bearing the Vatican and French flags and the papal crest. Wearing a red cape over his white robes and sheltering from the rain beneath a white umbrella, he walked slowly, but unaided, down the aircraft steps to be greeted by President Chirac and his wife Bernadette.

Despite the steady rain, the 76-year-old pontiff reviewed a Republican Guard of honour and shook hands with a long line of dignitaries. He was driven into Tours in a bullet-proof car before transferring to his white Popemobile to be clearly visible to the sparse groups of wellwishers who had braved the rainswept streets. Until shortly before his arrival the city was deserted, leaving disappointed souvenir vendors wondering how they were going to dispose of their merchandise.

Security for the visit is tight after a crude homemade bomb was defused two weeks ago at the shrine in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, which the Pope visited yesterday afternoon by helicopter. The unidentified attackers had scrawled "In nomine-Pope-Boom" on the wall of the church. As helicopters buzzed overhead, the police presence in Tours yesterday swelled to 6,000, including bodyguards, marksmen and paramilitary police.

Looking pale and tired, the Pope met M Chirac for only 20 minutes. Avoiding the controversy which surrounds his visit, he spoke instead of the suffering of the poor. He praised French aid to developing countries in a "long tradition of solidarity and fraternity for their fellow men" and hailed the dialogue between French Catholics and the country's Muslim and Jewish communities.

M Chirac, who is an occasional churchgoer, will not attend any of the religious ceremonies, underlining the State-Church divide. The President has been criticised for partly funding the papal visit and the celebrations surrounding the 1,500th anniversary on Sunday of the baptism in Rheims of Clovis, the pagan Frankish king who converted to Roman Catholicism.

Clovis has been adopted as a figurehead by the extreme Right and the celebrations have been hijacked by Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front leader, who says he will attend Sunday's Mass, although he has not been invited.

The hectic visit to France, which includes 21 public appearances, will be a test of stamina for the pontiff. Although he is often visibly in pain and looks increasingly frail, the Vatican has denied that the Pope is suffering from a very serious complaint.

GARETH WATKINS/REUTER



President Chirac helps the Pope with his cloak on his arrival in Tours yesterday at the start of his four-day visit to France

British warships 'spied on Russia'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A ROYAL NAVY squadron, supported by Nato aircraft and surveillance satellites, has been spying on naval facilities in northern Russia, according to a Russian intelligence report published yesterday.

The Itar-Tass news agency said that the document, prepared by unnamed officials involved in national security, accused a British frigate, *HMS London*, several submarines and support vessels of patrolling the Barents Sea and spying on Russian naval bases and coastal defence facilities.

"The actions of the British warships are co-ordinated with Nato's satellite reconnaissance and spy planes," said the report, which accused the West of intensifying its espionage against Russia.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, will formally assume the duties of head of state while President Yeltsin undergoes open-heart surgery, Mr Yeltsin decreed yesterday. In a four-point document issued by the Kremlin, President Yeltsin confirmed that Mr Chernomyrdin will assume all presidential functions, including control of the "nuclear button".

Bomb link to Gaddafi relative

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

JUDGE Jean-Louis Bruguière, France's chief anti-terrorism investigator, is to demand that four Libyan secret service officials, including a brother-in-law of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, should be tried in absentia for the 1989 bombing of a UTA airlines DC10 jet.

Seven years to the day after the plane crashed in the Sahara, killing all 170 people on board, M Bruguière met victims' families yesterday to announce that he had completed his investigation into the bombing. The judge said he would also issue two further international arrest warrants, one for a senior official of the Libyan secret service and one for a suspect who is believed to have bought the timer for the device.

M Bruguière, who enjoys a reputation as one of France's most thorough and tenacious examining magistrates, travelled to Libya for 12 days in July and questioned 40 people. He also found timers and detonators, believed to be similar to those used in the bombing, during a search of secret service offices in Tripoli and brought back a US-made suitcase he believes is identical to the one packed with pentrite high explosive that was used in the incident.

Colonel Gaddafi wrote to President Chirac in March, offering help with investigations into the bombings of the UTA plane and the Pan Am flight which came down over Lockerbie in 1988, the weekly news magazine *L'Express* reported yesterday. "I wish to assure you that [Libya] is anxious to co-operate with France to determine the cause of the accident and to ensure that the perpetrators are punished," he wrote.

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Iraqi-backed Kurd asks West to shield him from Saddam

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Kurdish leader who asked President Saddam Hussein for military help to defeat a rival Kurdish faction was now "urgently" asking the Gulf War allies for protection, John Deutch, the CIA director, revealed yesterday.

Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), was "urgently asking for our assistance . . . in an effort to keep Saddam Hussein at arm's length", Mr Deutch said in congressional testimony. On Wednesday, Mr Barzani briefly left Iraq to hold a meeting with Robert Pelletreau, the Assistant US Secretary of State, in Turkey. Neither man commented on the meeting afterwards.

Mr Barzani precipitated the present Iraq crisis late last month by inviting Saddam's forces into the Kurdish haven north of the 36th parallel to help him to capture the city of Arbil and drive back the forces of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Mr Barzani's ploy worked, and the KDP now controls most of northern Iraq, but Mr Deutch said that he was playing an "enormously dangerous game". The CIA chief recalled how Saddam had massacred Kurds, including members of Mr Barzani's family, in 1991 and said the Iraqi dictator was now pressuring Mr Barzani to "negotiate a framework for autonomy under Baghdad's overall control". Mr Deutch said the Iraqi military had withdrawn south of the 36th parallel, but Saddam had left a network of intelligence and security officers in the Kurdish zone.

He gave no indication how the coalition would respond to Mr Barzani's appeal, but it is unlikely to be sympathetic. Saddam's incursion into the Kurdish haven led the US to launch 44 cruise missiles against targets in southern Iraq, a move which divided the allies.

The CIA director also said that Saddam's latest confrontation with America had strengthened his position in the region. The allies' failure to support the US airstrikes had caused a "perception of weakened determination of the coalition to meet Iraqi aggression". Turkey was increasingly willing to deal directly with Iraq, and Saddam had survived six years of international sanctions.

"It is not possible to say that [Saddam] is not stronger today than he was six weeks ago, and I think that is very bad," Mr Deutch said. He gave a warning that there would be "no stability in the region or improved circumstances for the Iraqi people until Saddam Hussein and his regime are replaced", but the CIA did not believe he would be overthrown "in the near term". When Saddam's forces captured Arbil they destroyed a major CIA operation designed to remove the Iraqi dictator.

As Mr Deutch was speaking in Washington, the US military build-up in the region gathered pace. A second US aircraft carrier group led by the *USS Enterprise* arrived in the Gulf to join the *USS Carl Vinson*. As many as 3,500 US troops were arriving in Kuwait last night and today, reinforcing the 1,200 already there. A formidable array of warplanes arrived a few days ago.

These forces could be used to mount new attacks on Iraq if it defies the expanded southern no-fly zone, or to defend Kuwait, though Mr Deutch said the prospects of another Iraqi attack on the emirate were "very low". US military analysts estimate the cost of the build-up at $200-$250 million (£130-160 million).



America's first female chain-gang shuffles off awkwardly on its way to pick up litter in the scorching streets of Phoenix yesterday

Sheriff puts his chain-gang women on parade

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

FOR HER first day on America's first female chain-gang, Princess Richardson bought a tube of deep red lipstick at the prison and wrote a martial-sounding cadence for her fellow inmates to yell back at her.

One verse went:

We got to work so we don't get fat,
We wear orange suits and little orange hats
Big wide belts and black shiny boots
People say we look cute.

Shackled to each other with hardened steel, 15 women from Estrella jail in Phoenix shuffled off a bus onto the scorching streets yesterday to pick up litter and show what it means to be a criminal in the backyard of "America's toughest sheriff".

They were not cute, but they were instant celebrities. Summoned by Sheriff Joe Arpaio's well-oiled publicity machine, an international media horde gathered to witness the latest eye-catching punishment conceived by a man who likes to think of himself as the West's meanest law enforcer since Wyatt Earp. Mr Arpaio is admired by 85 per cent of Phoenix citizens, reviled by civil rights groups and endured by his inmates.

"It's hell in the hole. That's why we're out here," said Richardson, 42, a motorcycle gang member serving a one-year sentence for aggravated assault after trying to shoot her allegedly abusive husband. She was referring to the Estrella jail's 23-hour-a-day "lockdown" wing in which inmates live four to a cell in temperatures of up to 110F (43C), sharing an unenclosed lavatory, for violating prison rules.

Thirty-day stints on chain-gang duty are offered as a quick way out of lockdown. "It's kind of an honour for us to have the opportunity to get back on inmate status," Michelle Allen said, serving time for selling drugs and equipped for the day with weeding gloves, water bottle and a rake. Struggling to walk in rhythm with the two women chained to her left foot, Allen set off down bleak and shadeless Van Buren Street under the approving gaze of Mr Arpaio. "They get a diploma when it's over," he announced. "It says 'Last Chance Chain-Gang', and that's exactly what it means. If they get out of line again, they finish their term in lockdown."

Mr Arpaio, a rotund former narcotics officer, had justified women chain-gangs by saying that crime has no gender, so neither should punishment. "Is this politically incorrect?" he asked. "All I know is it is tough, and I like that. I am not a social worker; I'm out here to punish."

Netanyahu rejects Syrian call for Golan concessions

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday ruled out concessions being demanded by Syria for reopening peace talks stalled since February as new violence flared in Lebanon. Israeli warplanes and artillery pounded Hezbollah targets after two Israeli soldiers were killed and two wounded in an ambush.

The eruption of fighting, which brought to 20 the number of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon by pro-Iranian guerrillas this year, came amid an urgent new American mediation attempt to defuse tension between Israel and Syria prompted by dramatic troop movements on both sides of the border.

News of the flare-up along the only active Arab-Israeli war front came as Mr Netanyahu was being interviewed by *The Times* and other European papers in advance of his first official trip to Europe next week. Officials said he would hold talks with John Major, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, and possibly Baroness Thatcher, the former Prime Minister, in London before going on to Paris and Bonn.

After talks with Dennis Ross, the American mediator, Mr Netanyahu firmly rejected the call by President Assad of Syria that he adopt the position attributed to the previous Labour Government of agreeing in advance to hand back the whole of the Golan, taken from Syria in 1967, as part of a deal to secure a peace treaty similar to that signed by Israel and Egypt in 1979.

Mr Netanyahu said: "This Government was elected on a different platform [than Labour]. To request us to automatically assume the hypothetical positions of the previous Government ensures that we cannot move forward. It is now up to President Assad if he is interested, or not interested, in pursuing the peace talks."

Peres bows out of race

SHIMON PERES, right, the former Israeli Prime Minister and the main architect of the Palestinian peace accords, said yesterday he would not be a candidate for the premiership at the next elections in 2000 (Ross Dunn writes). The front-runner to succeed Mr Peres, 73, is Ehud Barak, former Chief of Staff of the Israeli defence forces. He is expected to be challenged by Haim Ramon, the former militant union leader.



Koalas to be given the Pill

Melbourne: The Australian state of Victoria plans to give koalas vasectomies and a version of the Pill to curb their growing numbers.

Wildlife officials who unveiled the plan yesterday said that although koalas were not considered threatened in Victoria, populations of the voracious eucalyptus eaters were up to 10 times the norm at some sites. Leaf consumption was exceeding supply, they added.

"If we don't face up to this issue . . . then there are several areas across the state which will suffer long-term ecological damage and koalas will starve," said Marie Tehan, state conservation and land management minister.

An adult koala eats more than a pound of leaves every day. Earlier this year, proposals by South Australia to cull up to 2,000 koalas due to overpopulation sparked a national outcry from animal lovers. The Australian Government resolved to move those animals but found there was a shortage of suitable sites. *(Reuter)*

Apartheid killer admits to remorse

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

EUGENE DE KOCK, apartheid's most notorious assassin, insisted yesterday that he was telling the truth about "dirty tricks" operations under white minority rule as the prosecution in his trial and others attacked his honesty.

The prosecution began their cross-examination of de Kock's testimony in mitigation of sentence amid attacks on his evidence from several prominent people, including Winnie Mandela. President Mandela's former wife has denounced de Kock as a "lunatic" and "liar" after he claimed that one of his victims was her "sex slave". Mrs Mandela has indicated she is preparing to take legal action against the former police colonel, suggesting he had ulterior motives in making some of his claims. "It's his hallucination," she said.

During his testimony earlier this week de Kock told the Pretoria Supreme Court how he had shot dead one of his men, Johannes Mobatha, after he defected to Mrs Mandela's "football club", the group of young men who acted as her bodyguards. De Kock said he heard from a police colleague that Mobatha had complained about being Mrs Mandela's "sex slave".

Revelations of this kind have peppered the testimony by de Kock, who ran a death squad in the Eighties and early Nineties, after he took the stand on Monday for the first time in his trial. He has been convicted on 89 charges, including six murders.

His testimony has provided the most damning evidence yet against the former regime. He has implicated P.W. Botha and F.W. de Klerk, the former Presidents, in clandestine operations against government opponents.

De Kock has sought to cast aside suggestions by his former superiors that he was a rogue policeman and during testimony yesterday swung between justification and remorse as he reflected on his life as state assassin. He said the death squads failed and only inflicted pain and suffering.

De Kock said his wife and children left him and emigrated after he told her about his work. He said at times he wished he had never been born, and felt "tainted and dirty" for the suffering he had inflicted.

Anton Ackerman, for the prosecution, pointed out that de Kock had previously lied under oath during investigations and suggested that he was good actor. De Kock admitted that he had lied before several commissions of inquiry and in court cases, but he said he was now being truthful because his back was against the wall.

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Loving God and loving a priest

Clelia Podestá shocked the Vatican by marrying an Argentinian bishop and writing their story. **Margaret Hebblethwaite** reports

On July 28, 1996, a Roman Catholic bishop was seen at Mass hand-in-hand with a woman. This was not the Right Rev Roderick Wright, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. No, this was the Argentinian bishop, Jerónimo Podestá, and his wife, Clelia.

The occasion was an International Congress of Married Catholic Priests and their Families in Brasília. I was invited to give one of the addresses, because I, too, married a priest — the late Vatican expert Peter Hebblethwaite.

Clelia and Jerónimo had natural authority. They had strength and grace and wisdom. I asked Jerónimo if he was the only married Catholic bishop. He replied: "I am the only one who dares show his face."

Jerónimo and Clelia are now advanced in years, but the early days of their love is told in a book she published in July. *Mi nombre es Clelia* (My name is Clelia) is a response to the Vatican officials who would refer to her only as "that woman".

So much of what she says resonates with my own knowledge of how loving God and loving a priest can be intertwined. From her book, this is her story.

Clelia Luro married very young, and the marriage broke down after ten years, leaving her with six daughters. She met the Bishop of Avellaneda in 1966. Jerónimo Podestá had pioneered a forward-looking pastoral plan in his working-class diocese, forming teams of worker priests and urging his clergy to be concerned with local problems.

Clelia wrote after their first meeting: "It was as if we had known each other always. With men like that, how different the Church would be." Meanwhile Jerónimo was making his own notes: "I see something audacious in that decided woman, who has no inhibitions ... She speaks to me with great supernatural love and clear human affection, and I feel that she brings me a message."

A few weeks later Clelia went to see Jerónimo again, and he took her into the oratory, gave her Communion and knelt down beside her. "I felt the presence of God," she wrote. She offered to put his untidy room in order, and he replied: "No. You are going to help me put the Church in order."

In a letter that Christmas, Clelia wrote: "Dear Jerónimo, I asked God why I love like this: I did not want to love, it hurts ... Your hands, Jerónimo, I love your hands that consecrate and bless ... your lips that give out His Word, your eyes that reflect

> 'I asked God why I loved you like this. I did not want to'

God, your feet that do not tire with travelling to announce the Gospel."

On January 2, 1967, Jerónimo wrote back: "Dear Clelia, God has united us so much. He has united us in one mission and a common vocation ... I love you so much, with all my being."

But the Church authorities, in collusion with the military Government of General Juan Carlos Onganía, lost little time. Clelia believed correctly that spies were set on them.

The Nuncio (the representative of the Pope in Argentina) paid a surprise visit to Jerónimo before January was out, bringing two archbishops to fulfil the requirements for a "canonical admonition". Yet as far as Clelia and Jerónimo could see, their friendship was not scandalous.

The net tightened after Pope Paul VI wrote his famous encyclical *Populorum Progressio* on poverty and injustice. Jerónimo got into trouble with the Nuncio for proclaiming the teaching too enthusiastically, and he went to Rome for an audience with the Pope.

Jerónimo suspected that personal accusations had been made and spoke honestly about his relationship with Clelia. The Pope listened with eyes closed and face tensed. Jerónimo said his conscience reproached him for nothing, but the Pope told him that did not square with what he had heard, and he should root this affection out.

After the meeting Jerónimo cried. The Nuncio presented him with a letter of resignation. He signed, asking that the resignation should not take effect until he had had another audience with the Pope. Today he still feels his resignation was elicited by trickery.

Clelia was granted a meeting with Cardinal Giovanni Benelli. He told her that women should remain hidden in the Church as the Virgin remained hidden in the Gospels. She told him that if he really loved the Church he should change his clothes and live for a year in the world.

Like every tale of love between a woman and an ordained celibate, the story of Clelia and Jerónimo is marked with tenderness and struggle. But there is something more. Behind and beyond the human love is a reaching out to something transcendent. It is enough to understand why Clelia prefers to speak of "priestly couples" rather than of "married priests".

Jerónimo added a few words. Clelia's concern with the priesthood, he said, was the "determining thread of this story, which is an affirmation of woman, of liberty and of the priestly meaning of life".

● *Mi nombre es Clelia is published by Editorial Heroes, Santiago de Chile.*

I haven't been so close to models — now I'm depressed

Vogue sent **Ruby Wax** to Paris to report on the haute couture shows. This is her verdict from the front row at Versace



Wax and the impossible dream. "This is what women are supposed to look like, you runt"

It is really life and death where you are seated at these shows. Women have opened veins and bled to death if they are placed in a back row, because it means their life in fashion is *finito*. All I want to say here is I am in seat 1A and in every tongue of every country around the world, I hear the phrase: "Who the **** is she?"

Eurobitches, who have never smiled in their lives, whose facial muscles have never even moved in any sort of upwards motion, now use their fingers to hoik their skins up into a horrible, smile-like position — aimed at me. Everyone thinks I must be someone. Even I start to believe this. Across the runway from me is Elton John and his friend, who is wearing a top made of bronze chain mail. I shout over: "I love your tits." He smiles appreciatively.

The show starts. I know this because a swarm of paparazzi crushes my feet. First we see a giant naked photo of Kate Moss and her nipples and I wonder what the hell we're supposed to be buying. Are the nips for sale, or what? Then the photo parts, the lights dim, sexy music starts and the stick insects begin their parade.

Out they come, bones on stilettos. It doesn't matter what the magazines tell you; colours may change, the hemline may go up or down, but what's really "in" fashion, year after year, is tall, tall skeletons. I have never seen models close up and I suddenly become very depressed. My skin in no way resembles what covers these people. Theirs is flawless. Tawny, tawny, tawny. I have to buy this colour; they grow it.

They gracefully move their long legs, taking hours to rotate them in those hard, jutting hips. I am in awe. This is what these women do for a living. They walk up. They walk down. And all of them, before they swivel off in the other direction, look really angry at someone who seems to be hanging inches from the ceiling in the distance. From the earlier exultation of sitting in 1A, I sink into a bubbling mass of self-loathing and depression. Internally I say: "This is what women are supposed to look like, you ... you runt."

After the show, we all have to kiss Versace, who is as thrilled to meet me as I am when I get a yeast infection. And in a huge motorway-crash pile-up of Dior bags and facelifts, we squish into the Ritz bar where the Eurorich gather at the champers troughs.

I'm sitting with Lucinda and Alex, the theme being the death of the jacket. Mario, *Vogue*'s photographer, is described to me as "soooooo funny", and you have to beg to be shot by him, no matter how big you are. He looks through me till I jokingly kick him in the nuts. He then dribbles some gossip our way, as we whoof the free olives.

Linda Evangelista has lost weight. This is all-important, 'cause her career was dipping last year, due to a few chins. The reason being that her lung collapsed on an airplane, and she had to be stitched up from her flanks to her shoulder and she couldn't do sit-ups, thus the tum. But now thank God, she's chain-smoking and thin again.

We were then all, en masse, transported to the Versace party for food, though no one present had ever eaten anything in their lives. Before I go on, I just want to say I had done a television show at

> The real fashion, year after year, is tall, tall skeletons

Cannes a year earlier where I crashed Mickey Rourke's press conference.

Mickey made us wait two-and-a-half-hours while, as his PR person explained, he had to get his head together. We all had to watch him try to get his head together, on the beach, and then he came to us in a cloud of arrogance. His gorilla-in-tux PR person told us not to ask stupid questions.

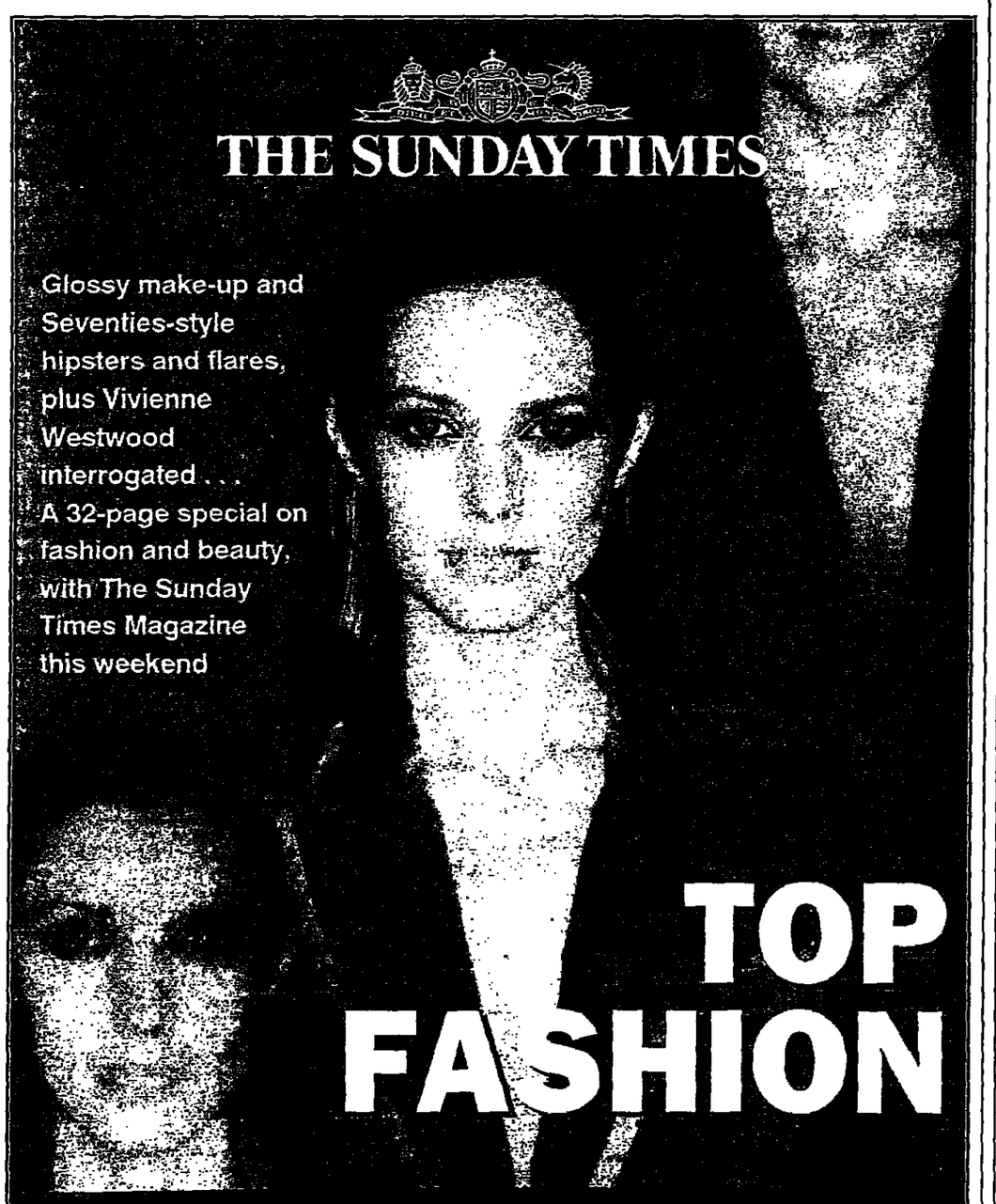
After a few lewd comments from the press, Mickey explained that *9½ Weeks*, part one, was not about "****ing", as the press implied, but a "mental thing". Also, they weren't sure who the new girl was going to be in part two, so please don't ask. I stood up, introduced myself as Ruby Wax, BBC, volunteered to be "the new girl" and said, even though it was more of a mental thing he was doing, he was fantastic at schtuping. I was thrown out.

Now cut to the Versace party and who sits down next to me? Mickey. He introduces to me the girl beside him as his co-star in *9½ Weeks, Part Two*. My life is like a sitcom. Mickey doesn't remember me or anything, so he tells me how much he admires his co-star.

I say, if you like her so much, why don't you marry her? And here's where the charm starts. He tells me he would but, "I have to stick my dick into every woman I meet". A piece of lobster falls from my lips.

● *Abridged from an article by Ruby Wax in Vogue's October issue, on sale from Monday.*







A jagged little pill to swallow: Caitlin Moran on the fact that women rock stars only succeed if they appeal to men — Arts, pages 32-34

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'You *can* admire Thatcher and support Labour'

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Bob Gavron is said to be a tycoon who always gets what he wants — so what made him want to hand over half a million pounds to Labour?

The unimpeachably rich Bob Gavron has come to the aid of the Labour Party with £500,000 because he feels "comfortable with the party" at last. Since he is just the kind of benefactor they need, they want him to come out and say so. Until now, he has kept a low profile: "I never wanted to become well-known principally for making money."

With his woolly white curls, nut-brown face, shoe-button eyes and clownishly toothsome smile, he increasingly resembles Harpo Marx: the first person to tell him so was Vitas Gerulaitis, in a Tokyo nightclub. Walking his dogs on Hampstead Heath each morning in a curious hat with earflaps, he would never be taken for a tycoon. Socially he is engaging and unassuming. But as his old Oxford friend Jeremy Isaacs points out, nobody gets to be where Gavron is without thumping a few tables; and thump he does, at Royal Opera House board meetings.

As a cultivated businessman who made his millions from printing, he has been wooed by politicians before. Bill Rodgers tried to recruit him as a potential SDP peer in the early 1980s, but Gavron, who thought Barbara Castle's *In Place of Strife* "brilliant", had by then become something of a Thatcherite: "I was never a Tory. Absolutely not! But you can admire Lady Thatcher and still be a Labour Party supporter."

Gavron grew up, elder son of a Labour-voting patent lawyer, in Hampstead Garden Suburb. The Mandelsons were neighbours: Peter's father, Tony, the advertising manager of the *Jewish Chronicle*, took young Bob for his first espresso coffee in Soho. He went to Michael Foot's old Quaker school, Leighton Park at Reading, then Oxford, where he played Buttons to Ned Sherrin's Fairy Queen (Nigel Lawson was a chorus boy), was literary editor of *Cherwell*, and read law. At Oxford Labour Club, where he was impressed by the fiery oratory of "old Stansgate", Tony Benn's father, he knew Gerald Kaufman — "but I was just as friendly with Michael Heseltine. I would never not be friendly with someone just because of their political views.

"But I've never been really passionate about politics, until now. This is the first time I don't feel I have to adapt myself to support Labour. I think a lot of Labour people had to adapt themselves in the past. I'm comfortable with the Labour Party now. I like and trust Tony Blair."

He first met Blair at a birthday party *chez* Blair's friend Charlie Falconer QC. Gavron later invited Blair to an Institute for Public Policy Research dinner for industrialists and Shadow ministers. Blair, then employment spokesman, spoke of his plan to reverse some Tory union reforms. Gavron, who had given £100,000 to Neil Kinnock's election campaign, was unhappy: he invited Blair to meet him privately. "Blair argued his case well," Gavron says. He would never claim to have influenced Blair — but Blair's views have certainly changed.

> Naked bathing for the guests is a rule of the house

Gavron trained as a barrister but "to delay the life-sentence of a career" took an executive traineeship with a jobbing printer in Soho, which meant wielding a broom on the first day.

"If middle-class people go into the printing trade, it's assumed that you must be interested in fine art prints or old typefaces. I was interested in Marks and Spencer style, efficiency and reliability." For nine years he observed how "most printers regard customers as a nuisance". He borrowed £5,000 and took over an ailing company which he cautiously named St Ives rather than Gavron ("Supposing I went bust?") as one of its factories stood in the Huntingdonshire town. It grew into an international company producing 100 million books annually and 600 magazines, of which the glossiest is *The World of Interiors*.

His first wife, Hannah, mother of his two sons, Simon and the novelist Jeremy, was the daughter of T.R. ("Tosco") Fyvel, the literary editor of *Tribune*, a great influence on Gavron. "He would have been a Blairite today." Gavron says.

Hannah, who had shone at RADA, took a degree at Bedford College after the birth of their first son. Her PhD thesis, published as *The Captive Wife*, became a feminist tract. In her preface she wrote: "Above all, I owe thanks to my husband Robert Gavron, for his invaluable help, encouragement and support." But she did not see its publication. She took her own life before her 30th birthday. Gavron, stricken, was "in a daze" for about two years.

Nicky, his second wife, mother of his daughters Jessica and Sarah, became a Labour activist: she is Haringey's education committee chairman. He met his third wife, Kate, through publishing. She, too, is now doing her PhD (after a First in anthropology at LSE) and is chairman of Carcanet, Gavron's poetry imprint. It is a telling testimonial to Gavron that Nicky, Kate and three mothers-in-law, all remain friends.

When he stepped down in 1993 after 29 years as chairman, St Ives was worth £400 million. He remains the biggest shareholder. "But I don't stalk the corridors. I take a collegiate attitude to running a company. People will call me autocratic, but I believed in passing shares around. When we floated, there were several millionaires." He could have become even richer had he not been such a financial conservative. "As a lawyer, I think you should be meticulously straight and honest. I don't go in for tax avoidance. I don't like renting or borrowing."

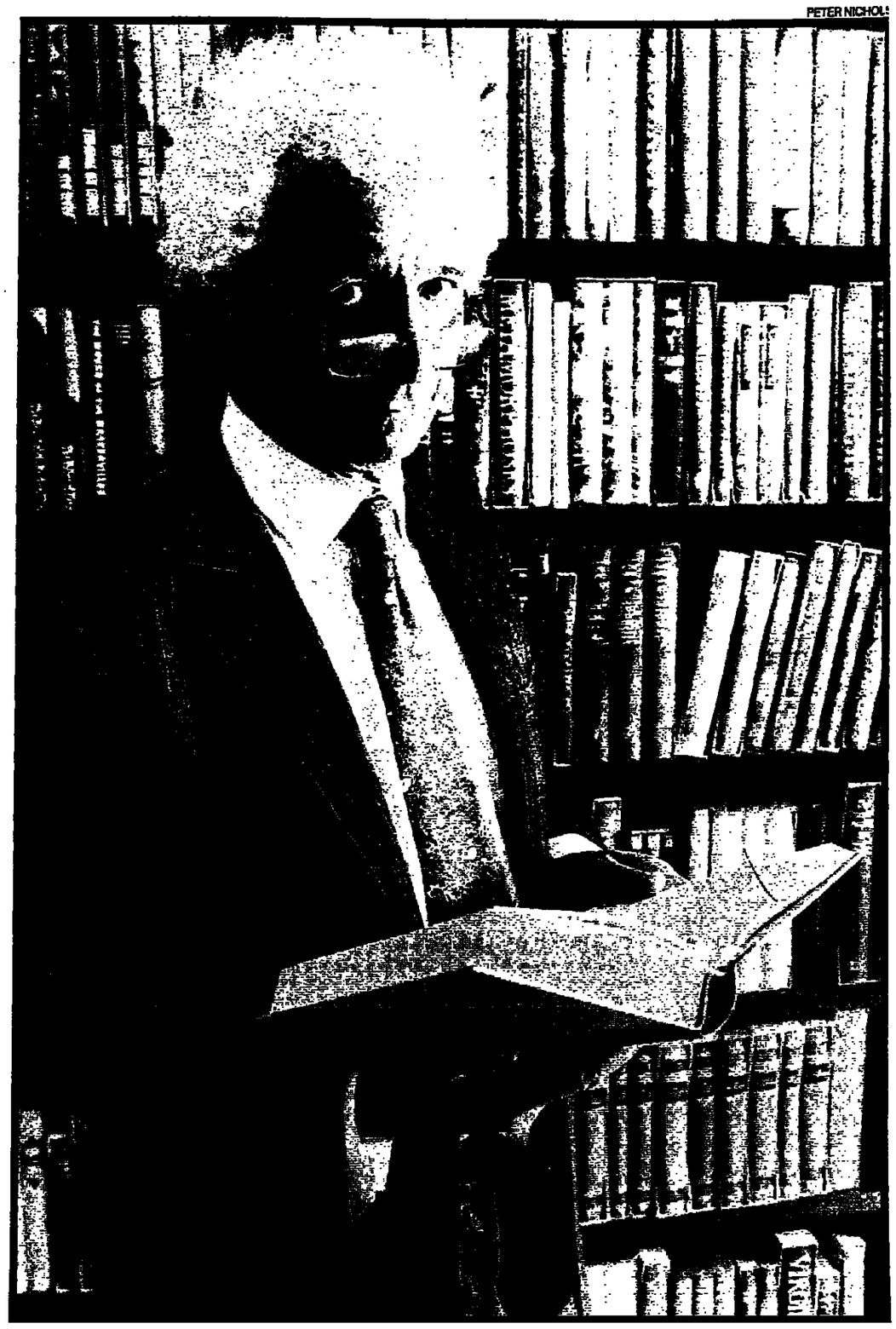
For his 66th birthday last Friday his children gave him a Wilson Sledgehammer tennis racket with which to carry on beating his wife. Guests who play tennis on the court in his garden are invited to plunge into his warm subterranean pool afterwards, and are instructed not to bother with swimsuits. Naked bathing is also the rule at his house in Provence (in Peter Mayle's village — but Gavron got there first).

His manorial Highgate house formerly belonged to the pianist Clifford Curzon, whose vast music room is now Gavron's library, with cupola and Arts & Crafts decor, and a concealed button that lets down a full-size cinema screen. He is a bit of a film buff, a dabbler who also likes chamber music, jazz, opera, ballet, books. Tuesday this week found him at the launch of Brian Brivati's life of Gaitskell (Gavron's hero) in London University's Senate House; where Roy Hattersley and Barbara Castle locked horns in an "old" Labour debate. Gavron was accompanied by Cressida and Julia, Gaitskell's daughters.

He has always taken long holidays and time off for tennis and squash; he never worked long hours. "I'm a delegator. And a good people-picker. If you motivate people, they will be worthy of your trust." Two of his best friends in the industry were Christopher Bland (now BBC Chairman) and Michael Green, of Carlton. When offered the chance to buy the Folio Society, he was told that Bland and the Saatchis were also interested, and "signed a cheque over lunch". How much? "Oh I don't remember darling. Either side of a million I think." The Folio, the bibliophiles' book club, approaches its 50th anniversary with smart new headquarters (which cost Gavron £2 million) and a rising membership. His first suggestion as chairman was that they drop plans to do Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. It became a top seller. Whenever he intervenes now, they remind him: "Remember Gibbon."

He backed Carmen Callil when she set up the feminist press Virago, and later part-owned it, until their acrimonious split last year. Callil, unhappy about Kate Gavron becoming chairman of her brainchild after her own resignation, proposed the sale of the company to Little, Brown. It was the end of a 30-year friendship; Callil and Gavron have not spoken since. He says: "Carmen always gets what she wants." She says: "Bob always gets what he wants."

He has plenty of tables to thump, as one of nature's committee men: on the board of the National Gallery and Covent Garden, vice-president of the Poetry Society, and a trustee and treasurer of the IPPR. Tessa Blackstone's think-tank. As a potential Labour peer he would surely be an obvious choice to run the Arts Council? Gavron cannot possibly comment. "But obviously, I can run things," he says.



PETER NICHOLS

Bob Gavron: a keen business brain beneath the woolly white curls and growing resemblance to Harpo Marx

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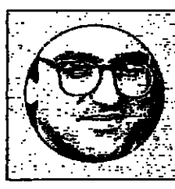
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Everybody do the Cabinet reshuffle



SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Joe Joseph

NIETZSCHE would not believe in a God who could not dance. Barbara Castle has no time for a politician who cannot. Hugh Gaitskell just was not her cup of tea, she sniped at a party this week to launch a crisp new biography of the late Labour leader. Castle could not stomach his "cold, calculating intolerance" towards Bevan.

"Mind you," she added, "he was a very good dancer — and to me that is more important than politics in a man."

At first it may look like a tiny sliver of political wisdom. But this gem could yet see us through the grim party conference season ahead.

If only we judged MPs by their quicksteps instead of their soundbites, then the late Victor Silvester — not Sir Bernard Ingham or Peter Mandelson — would be Westminster's legendary spin-doctor. Socially ambitious women would boast of how they had danced with a man who danced with a girl who danced with the Foreign Secretary. Political pundits would tune in to *Come Dancing*, not *Newsnight*.

Dancing, like politics, is all about anticipation. Treading on a partner's toes would be the equivalent of the political gaffe, reshown endlessly on news bulletins. Kenneth Clarke's soft-soled Hush Puppies would become an electoral asset as voters wondered whom they would foxtrot with on polling day.

Which of us would not race to watch the party leaders' speeches at Blackpool and Bournemouth if it meant we could see Tony Blair in satin bell-bottoms dancing the tango, with Harriet Harman's fishnetted-gusset laced around his armpit and a red rose-stem between his teeth?

While Tony tangoed, John Major would be gently twisting with Norma. Pro-Europeans would embrace Ceroc, the new continental dance craze. Euro-sceptics would stick to a stiff-backed waltz. James Goldsmith would not move until everyone had been given a chance to choose which dance they really wanted.

In the middle of the ballroom, Paddy Ashdown and his fit troops would be line dancing, all looking gung-ho in their cowboy boots but not really going anywhere.

Cicero, as astute a politician as you could hope to rumba with, thought that no sober man danced unless he happened to be mad. Luckily for us, most politicians are.

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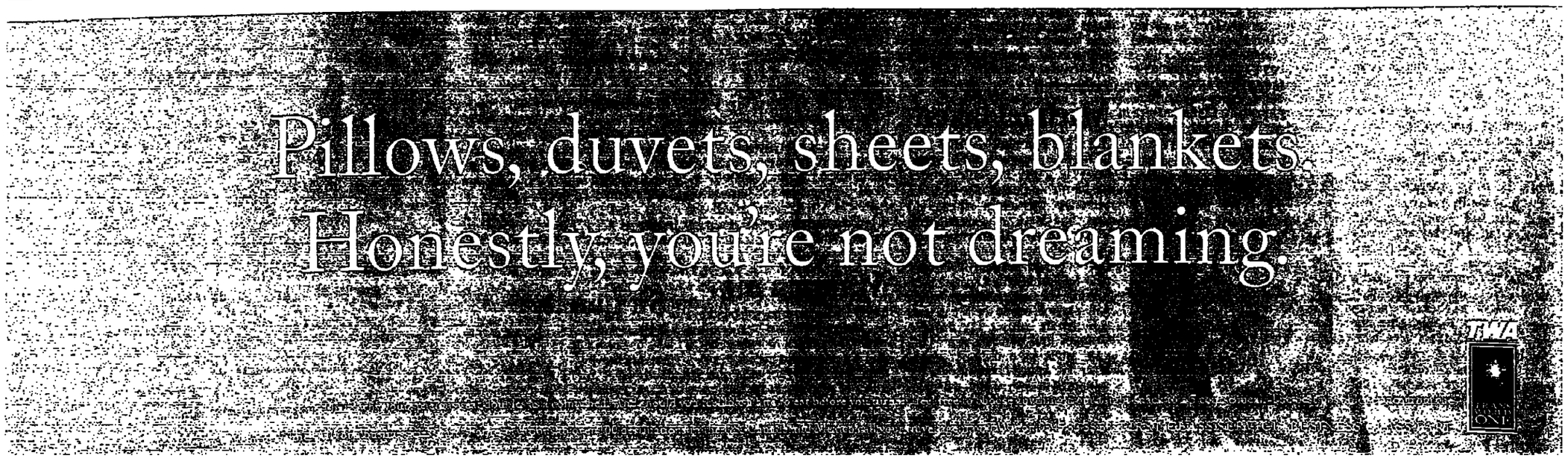
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Let sink schools go private

Robert Skidelsky says Tory reforms are too timorous

Educational standards in our schools are too low and need to be raised. This central point, which all political parties accept, was ignored on this page on Wednesday by Simon Jenkins, who cheerfully claimed that outside London and a few big cities all is well with British education. What are the facts? Last year's national tests of 11-year-olds show most pupils failing to achieve expected *British* standards in literacy and numeracy. Cross-country tests at 13 show that they fail even more miserably to measure up to international standards. Since the 1960s our standards have slipped relatively, perhaps absolutely. And it is not because we spend less money on education than similar countries. It is the value per pound spent which is inferior.

There are three ways one can think of to increase the returns on educational spending. The government can order all teachers and schools to behave in certain ways. Or it can allow schools to select by ability. Or it can encourage schools to compete with each other for custom.

Since 1988, the Conservatives have tried the first, "top-down" approach. They have imposed a national system on the 25,000 state primary and comprehensive schools, with production plans (the National Curriculum), output targets ("levels of attainment"), and testing and inspection systems. Additionally, the Government has taken in hand the training of teachers. This approach, modelled on Soviet planning, was adopted with a straight face by a Conservative Government committed to variety and choice.

Simon Jenkins claims that "central government diktat" is restoring standards. But the evidence is against him. Robert Campbell, director of education studies at Warwick University, finds that, after eight years of "top-down" reform, literacy and numeracy in primary schools have not improved, and may even have declined — a judgment endorsed by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools. The reason is not hard to find. The Government has set up a system which encourages everyone to cheat, from the top down. What you get is not a "central diktat", but a tacit collusion between the "stakeholders" of the planned service (Government, teacher unions, LEAs) to *pretend* that the plan is being fulfilled ("standards are rising") when in fact it is not. But the day of reckoning can be long postponed by the many stratagems for reclassifying failure as success.

Apparently disenchanted with the results of the "top-down" approach, the Government has started to espouse a selective school system. "A grammar school in every town," John Major recently proclaimed. Grant-maintained schools might become the new grammar schools: the City Technology Colleges the nucleus of a new technical school sector. Other schools might specialise in vocational studies, music, drama, sport, and so on.

The key point of this meritocratic model is selection of pupils by schools. Its political weakness is the association of selection with the old 11-plus. Labour's version of selectivity is to "group by ability" *within* comprehensives. This ignores the difficulty of developing a selective ethos within schools founded on the principle of non-selection. Both Tory and Labour versions of selection pull against the logic of "top-down" control. Hence the widespread suspicion that education policy is in a mess.

Conservative ministers have never much believed in parental choice — except as regards their own children. Yet this is the governing principle of the highly successful independent sector. No one denies that private schools compete for the custom of parents. No one denies that standards in most independent schools are higher than in most state schools — without any "top-down" planning. So why can't we think of this unplanned, unmeritocratic system as the model for our national education — with all schools in the private sector and competing for custom on the basis of quality and price?

One obvious reason is that most parents cannot afford to "go private". But suppose that every family received an annual earmarked cheque for each school-aged child. This is the voucher principle. The voucher is simply a device for giving parents the power to buy the education they want for children, rather than having education allocated through the tax system. Schools and teachers would be directly accountable to parents — not to governments and their quangos.

Critics say that most parents do not know or care enough about education to choose wisely. But information about schools can be easily supplied. And why should it be thought that caring about education is the monopoly of those who send their children to private schools? These are classic diversionary tactics.

The transition from a state to a private school system cannot take place overnight. But there is an obvious starting point. The worst of our state schools are in inner-city areas. Why not declare such areas "education enterprise zones" and offer to lease the lowest performing schools in them to private charitable educational trusts freed from detailed regulations? School payments could be done by voucher in any zone in which a minimum number of these "private" schools was operating.

Simon Jenkins writes "at least Skidelsky's sink schools would be rich, albeit at a huge price to the Treasury". Wrong: there would be no price to the Treasury, since the State already pays far more per pupil in "sink" schools than the national average. But the main point is that under private management they would no longer be sink schools — any more than the Catholic schools in the slums of New York are sink schools.

Such a scheme could be adopted without any commitment to universal private education. But it could also be a first step to the wider system I have in mind. Let us consign national plans and 11-pluses to the history books where they belong, and trust private initiative driven by parental choice to raise national standards.

Lord Skidelsky's pamphlet A Question of Standards *is published by Politeia.*



A tale of two colonies

Tibet's martyrdom continues — and next July Britain will hand over the Hong Kong people to the perpetrators

Bernard Levin

Some of my regular readers, when they see either of my King Charles's Heads — Tibet and Hong Kong — tend to flee the room, giving no forwarding address. But I have to say that I do not bang on about these things for fun. The destruction of Tibet and its people — now almost complete — is one of the greatest crimes in history, and the Hong Kong handover from a democratic country to a country that does not even know what democracy is is hardly less wicked.

But now something has happened which will hardly change the world, but may at least raise an eyebrow or two in a place that had before been eyebrowless. Hitherto, as far as I know, there has been in the United States no serious and country-wide discussion of the plight of Hong Kong. But now *Newsweek* — one of the most serious and widely read weeklies of American magazines, and truly worldwide to boot — has signalled that Hong Kong, and not only Hong Kong, is in difficulty, and may soon be in danger. And when *Newsweek* gives a subject six pages, no fewer, with a striking picture on every page, something — something very remarkable — has happened.

You may scoff. But put the pieces together. A well-known American magazine; the days coming closer to the handover; millions living democratically instantly to be turned into Chinese subjects who enjoy no guarantee of freedom: well?

True; the United States is perhaps the most inward-looking country in the world, and only one in a hundred American citizens has ever heard of Hong Kong, but when they do, their generosity will make up for their ignorance. For the unique — truly unique — situation that the people of Hong Kong have found themselves in, through no fault of their own, merits exactly the kind of rescue that Americans are best at. It would be a most extraordinary operation, but why not? That country could swallow a million Hong Kong refugees with ease — and one million is the number of those who want to get out and can't. Why not?

Why not? That question has been asked in *Newsweek*, most trenchantly, while our Foreign Office flaps a limp hand and says Hong Kong is just a plaything for people like me. Anyone who knows Hong Kong well, or even mildly, knows of the great tycoons who have made giant fortunes in that tiny patch of land. They count their money in billions — American billions — but they count their passports in ones. After all, if anything went wrong (by which I mean they ceased to rake in the money in billions) they would want only one passport to leave and settle in, say, New York. And what about the roughly five million who would be left behind, because *they* do not count *their* money in billions?

We have to acknowledge the truth (which is very rarely to be found in the Foreign Office), that the Chinese authorities have already broken the flimsy first promises they made. The Chinese Government has already made it clear that it intends to override the wishes of the people of Hong Kong in two important areas: the commitment to abolish the present Legislative Council and the announcement that Chinese military personnel will not be subject to civil law in the territory. (Yet again, the Foreign Office will trot out its *mantra* — "China would never cut off its nose to spite its face".) And China has ignored many an olive branch, and I fear that many another olive branch will be ignored before Peking rejoins civilisation. But, you see, the very rich in Hong Kong have no such worries: Covenants, Basic Law, transitional arrangements — these are nothing to the tycoons.

What happened to the organisation created in Peking called the Preparatory Committee for managing the transition? "The committee is already operating in the classic Communist mould . . . the obedient Preparatory Committee will give way to a puppet legislature that Peking will install . . . Protests have already broken out in Hong Kong . . . but what may anger the democracy advocates most is that China has found it so easy to recruit so many of the biggest tycoons in Hong Kong to its cause."

That's nothing, but much can come from nothing. More and more, there are clashes with the police in Hong Kong, and don't think that they are about drunkards reeling home. Already there are demonstrations almost daily, and even the most innocent visitor would not mistake their purpose: they are demonstrations against the Communists. As the day comes closer — it is July 1, next year — more and more people are trying to get out before the gong sounds. True, there are many like the tycoons who have made their financial peace with Peking, but very many more will be held in the grip of real worry or even panic. And where will the panicky ones go?

Stop and think, what we would feel if we were told that on July 1, next year we would all be under the regime of communism. Would we not demonstrate in the streets? I would. And if one of the most senior and powerful Communists — Li Peng — arrived from Peking to make sure that five million hitherto free men and women would have to bow the knee, would you not demonstrate? Not demonstrate? Not even when

> . . . police reinforcements moved in as the crowd surged forward towards Mr Li's car. Demonstrators complained of rough police treatment as they attempted to present Mr Li with a petition . . ?

And did you read the little argument when Li Peng was to discuss the sale of French aeroplanes, and somehow the conversation took a different turn, and these monstrous, shocking, terrible, hideously dangerous words were spoken: M Chirac had ". . . underlined the importance France attaches to these democratic universal values". And the Chinese insisted that those monstrous, shocking, terrible, hideously dangerous words were to be expunged, *and they were.*

I have perhaps painted Hong Kong in colours somewhat too dark: time will show. If I have, I shall be the first to declare that I was wrong. Yet something tugs at my coat, and I find myself in a shadow; merely a shadow — but the Chinese occupation of Tibet is a dreadful and murderous story, and I have now to add something hardly less dreadful. You will find it almost unbelievable when I say that the Chinese occupation of Tibet has now reached a greater level of madness and cruelty altogether. Believe it or not, when pictures of the Dalai Lama are hung outside monasteries, the Chinese not only tear them down, but beat and torture the Buddhists — men and women alike — who put them up.

From a bystander, this:

> Some people were walking, some people could not walk. They were holding each other and some were crying or screaming . . . Their whole faces were sore and covered with blood . . . on the other truck I saw some legs hanging out of the back . . . up to 80 people, at least 30 women, had been injured in a clash with the authorities.

Pause for a moment, and repeat what it was that brought out the bloody, cruel and violent in the Chinese repressers: *it was that at some monasteries, the monks had hung out pictures of the Dalai Lama.* But that is nothing. Here is what the Chinese *said*, after what they had *done*. It comes from the Chinese Government's *Tibet Daily* (the words themselves are a vileness). In a front-page editorial, it called on policemen in the region to step up the crackdown on separatists and criminals amid reports of anti-Chinese protests and the sealing off of monasteries.

> In the "Strike Hard" crackdown on crime we must relentlessly pursue and show no mercy to those splittists who transport, steal and hide explosives and firearms . . . the crackdown on crime should include a campaign with the death penalty imposed whenever warranted.

There has been more brutal repression, some miles from Lhasa. Three monks were shot and injured by the "security forces"; several others in the party had broken legs, head wounds and severe beatings. Why? These monks and nuns have no weapons, and would not use them if they had. They do not try to overthrow the brutal rulers of what was once Tibet. They want nothing but a tiny handful of food and the time to meditate.

So why are they persecuted? I can answer. Deep down in these men, so deep that they have no idea that it is there, they know they are doing evil, but the thought cannot reach the surface, and never will, unless one of those holy men brings it up.

P.S. *From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong:* A sweeping purge of Tibet's . . . temples has begun . . . Vast complexes of temples and domestic buildings . . . have been the focus of repeated crackdowns . . . aimed at "bases of splittist activities" . . . forcing monks and nuns to hurl sacred writings into cesspits . . .

Philip Howard



■ Soon the best golf will be played by Daleks

This robot caddy sounds just the ticket for those of us who ought to be made to shout "Fore!" before we putt. It has been developed in Miami from the computerised navigational systems of space flight. So where the human caddy shakes his watch in disbelief as though it were a compass, the Dalek caddy lets no tremor of contempt disturb the even whine of its voice. For it cannot sneer at your backswing for looking like Demi Moore (no more, thank you) in this week's film *Striptease*, trying to struggle out of a dress too tight around the shoulders. It cannot see you. And even if it could, its microcircuits would not connect with the comparison. It does not go to the movies. Even on a course as unplayable as the Matterhorn, the robot detects your ball unerringly by microchip-sensor, tells you how far you lie from the hole, what hazards yawn ahead and which club to use. And it does not raise its shaggy eyebrows when you then hack the ball backwards between your legs. It has no eyebrows to raise.

Samuel Johnson must have been thinking about golf when he wrote: "It is unjust to claim the privileges of age and retain the playthings of childhood." But if grown men are going to carry on playing silly games (and they are), golf is best. Its stars are generally well-behaved role models, because their game is against their own errors rather than against their opponents. So the wild displays of self-congratulation or petulance that shame other games would put golfers off their stroke. There is little bad behaviour and not much snorting of substances to calm the yips. Professional discipline wins the big prizes. (Though Tommy Bolt, the American golfer famous for his graceful swing and temper, after lipping out six straight putts, shook his fist at the heavens and shouted: "Why don't You come down and fight like a man?")

And because it has acquired so many laws and conventions, golf is the best game for the nursery delight in nit-picking. Its vocabulary is interesting. Golf itself is said to be one of the words to slip into English from the Celtic languages. In Gaelic *gowf* means a blow with the hand, and an upper-crusty pronunciation of golf is *gof*. The Dutch (and others) disagree, claiming the etymology for *kolf*, the Dutch club for several games that consist of trying to whack a ball with a stick more or less well adapted for the purpose. And much golf jargon, such as *putter* and *niblick*, sounds as though it came across the North Sea to Scotland.

One of the stained-glass windows of Canterbury Cathedral has a picture of a man trying to blast his way out of a bunker centuries before the Royal and Ancient had discovered a profitable use for sandy wastelands by the sea. Much modern golf slang comes from American whimsy: for example, *birdy* and its fledgling *eagles* and *albatrosses*, hatched from the early 19th-century American slang of "a bird" as the bee's knees and the cat's pajamas.

Golfing literature is richer than that of any other sport, including even cricket and hunting. For the best sporting journalists are attracted to the mysteries of golf. And the golfing fiction by Wodehouse and others is as pleasing as a well-struck 60ft putt hitting the back of the hole, shooting three feet into the air and falling back down the hole with a gratifying clunk. On the Master's golden Never-Never-Course, the Wrecking Crew are pottering away 200 yards down the fairway about to get an ugly shock in the seat of the Gravedigger's plus-fours, some millionaire is playing another, winner to take butler, and at the end, boy gets girl, and fades out into clinch and twittering of birdies.

This new Dalek caddy is brilliant copy for a Wodehouse romance among the slicers and hookers. Somebody would sabotage somebody else's caddy to give the wrong club and the wrong advice, culminating in the stock Wodehousian splash into deep water. I hope the Master is busy on it up in some celestial clubhouse.

But to go the whole hog, the space-age golfing Einsteins should invent robots able to hit balls with the scientific precision of a guided missile. The Daleks could then play the game better than we do. And leave us to enjoy conversation and dog walk without humiliation.

TV times

THE HONCHOS at ITV are gearing up for a new campaign to move ITN's *News at Ten* to an earlier slot in the evening schedule. They failed to shift the flagship news programme three years ago, when John Major objected to the plan. The prospect of a Labour government, however, has given them new impetus.

ITV Network Centre says officially that it has no intention to move the news programme. But there is no doubt that board members are still itching to shift *News at Ten*, and they apparently believe that a Blair government might let them.

Many ITV companies support a switch to the early evening, saying that it would give them freedom to schedule adult drama after the 9pm watershed. MPs believe, however, that it would restrict coverage of parliamentary debates, although the companies have said they would add an extra bulletin at about 11pm.

Yesterday, a television source said: "The ITV companies have all but rubber stamped the deal to move the news in anticipation of a Blair government. They do not believe that Blair would intervene to the same extent as Major."

They may be counting their chickens, however. Peter Mandelson, an influential figure in the Blair camp, sponsored a Commons motion when the change was last mooted, calling for *News at Ten* to be saved.



Vinnie: run-on part?

THE TIMES DIARY

● *To his already bursting list of accomplishments, Vinnie Jones, footballer, crack shot, and Gary Lineker baiter, wants to add another: an appearance on the West End stage. Jones, master of the head butt and scything tackle, is said to have been badgering Sir Cameron Mackintosh for the part of Bill Sykes in the musical* Oliver.

Michael taken

EITHER Michael Portillo has Christ-like powers, or the German army is guilty of some serious media manipulation. The Defence Secretary was on a whistlestop tour this week of Bosnia with Volker Rühe, his German counterpart, and was visiting a Franco-German field hospital at Trogir, near Split in nearby Croatia.

While he was shaking hands with patients inside the Mash tent, a German soldier lay outside strapped to a stretcher at a 45 degree angle in a military ambulance. He waited 15 minutes for the visitors to interview him, a drip attached to his wrist along with other medical gadgets, apparently close to death.

When Portillo and Rühe emerged from the tent they talked to the gravely injured soldier. They were then rushed off to catch their planes home, at which point the injured German soldier jumped up from his stretcher, removed the drip from his wrist and slapped his thigh laughing.

Mamma mia

CUSTOMERS at one of London's best-known Italian restaurants were taken aback the other day to find a workman in their soup. Bertorelli's in Charlotte Street is in the midst of refurbishment, but a portion of the restaurant has remained open for business.

Earlier this week a couple were tucking into lunch when one of the painters joined their table uninvited. Dispensing with formal introductions, he arrived through the ceiling, landing in a fountain of cutlery and wine glasses on his back in the middle of the table. "There was an almighty bang and then there he was," says one onlooker. "The amazing thing was he wasn't badly hurt. He just rubbed his elbow rather ruefully."

● *Few sights were more embarrassing at the fifth anniversary party for The Ministry of Sound, top rave spot for teenage boppers, than 30-plus Peter "snake-hips" Mandelson jiving in his tuxedo. Meanwhile James Palumbo, founder of the Ministry, ignored celebrities such as Mick Jagger to fawn on Manders as if hoping to be power-broker in a new government.*

Sit quietly

EARLIER this year I reported how the Queen's fidgeting and endless talking during a sitting for the notorious "stubby finger" portrait drove the artist almost to distraction. Now I learn that the Duke of Edinburgh is a gabbler too.

Fortunately, John Orr, who painted the portrait, shown here for the first time, is a tolerant sort.

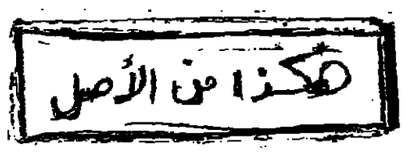


The garrulous Duke

"He didn't just answer questions with a short sentence, but would talk for an hour on a subject.

The portrait, which is to hang in the Naval & Military Club of which the Duke is President, is said to have delighted Prince Philip.

P·H·S



SERIOUS FARCE

The Maxwell affair must produce a wide-ranging review

Almost five years after the mysterious death of Robert Maxwell and the subsequent collapse of his business empire, the affair is, for the criminal law at least, finally over. It is difficult to see how any party, the defendants, their prosecutors, the City of London, or the taxpayer left with a bill exceeding £30 million, can be fully satisfied with events. There are two sets of questions that will be asked in the light of Mr Justice Buckley's decision. The first concerns the judgment of the Serious Fraud Office in pursuing this case despite their original defeat in January. The second is whether far-reaching reform is required in the entire matter of fraud.

On the first count the SFO will note that it never wanted two separate trials. It was forced into that position by the judgment of Mr Justice Phillips that their favoured model of a single 10-count indictment was unwieldy. It may further protest that the prospective second trial — involving an alleged £100 million fraud over the misuse of Berlitz International shares — was significantly different from the alleged theft of pension funds. Hence, the SFO contends, an acquittal in one was irrelevant to the other.

This reasoning ignored one factor. The defence in both instances would be identical: namely that Robert Maxwell was responsible for any criminal actions. That argument had survived a 131-day trial, a record 21-day testimony from Mr Kevin Maxwell, and an unprecedented 12-day jury deliberation. The overwhelming majority of legal opinion recommended abandoning the second endeavour. Having then wagered another £300,000 of public money despite that advice, the Serious Fraud Office cannot avoid additional scrutiny. It can point to an overall conviction rate of 62 per cent and has not lacked internal innovation. But doubts have been raised about whether investigation and prosecution of such situations should be in the hands of the same body. Although the Davie committee considered and rejected major change only 18 months ago, fresh examination may still be required.

The broader issue has focused on whether conventional juries can cope with cases of such complexity. In January, the Serious Fraud Office hinted that the Government should replace them outright with selected specialists. That suggestion ran counter to a fundamental principle of British law and won little backing. Now the SFO's preferred solution would be smaller juries — with certain specified minimum qualifications such as GCSE Maths.

Such a scheme is more subtle but no more attractive. Fraud trials are hardly unique in being complicated. Furthermore, it seems curious for the SFO to conject that on the one hand it is virtually impossible to achieve convictions in these cases but on the other that it does so 62 per cent of the time. It also glosses over the fact that in the first Maxwell trial an opening 700-strong pool of potential jurors were called and intellectual aptitude was one of the means by which they were whittled down to the final unfortunate dozen. If the data is that detailed and demanding then it is hard to believe that even multiple GCSEs will save the poor layman.

The real area of inquiry should be the complexity of the cases not the jury system. The sorry saga of the last decade — from the Guinness convictions to the Maxwell acquittals — suggests that the criminal law has been brought into areas that would be dealt with better by either civil law or direct regulation, or, in some sectors, left alone entirely. Successive attempts at devising comprehensive formulas for fraud have proved incoherent. Unenforcable law is unacceptable law. As Parliament passed the widely criticised Financial Services Act, it can be blamed at least as much as the Serious Fraud Office. The law, if not exactly an ass, is well short of ideal. It is the House of Commons that must find a solution to this whole unsightly mess.

MISSION IMPROBABLE

Danger signals from the comic submariners of Pyongyang

The infiltration of South Korea by some 20 armed North Koreans emerging from a beached submarine is both bizarre and alarming. The details of what seems a scarcely credible operation have an anachronistic feel of a bad Cold War film. The North Koreans appear to have panicked after the operation went wrong; the submarine ran aground, and was spotted by a local taxi-driver. The hapless commandos, abandoning their arsenal, feared discovery and 11 committed mass suicide or were shot by their leader. The others escaped into the mountains but were hunted down. Only one has been captured alive so far and has been talking about the mission, the most serious infiltration from the North for 30 years.

What he has said — persuaded to talk after being plied with four bottles of local whisky — can only add to the bewilderment and alarm in Seoul and regional capitals. The landing was the fourth such espionage mission in less than a month. Hardliners in Pyongyang are as determined as ever to continue military reconnaissance missions in preparation for an eventual full-scale invasion of the South, which has been their military aim ever since the 1953 armistice. The South Koreans regularly run into ill-equipped and amateurish commando missions. The captured North Korean has now revealed that at least 1,000 agents, including an all-female squad, have been trained to carry out spying and sabotage missions.

South Korea has never underestimated the dangers of living next to the last Stalinist state in the world, one so secretive, bellicose and paranoid that its actions are neither predictable nor rational. There were hopes — mostly in Western capitals — that with the death of Kim Il Sung, the autocratic founder of the Communist state, the way would be open to a more realistic assessment in Pyongyang of the military balance and North Korea's own desperate economic plight. Such hopes are premature. The military hardliners are as fanatically inculcated in Kim's doctrine as ever. The huge army, though ill-fed and poorly equipped, is still trained for imminent invasion, and North Korea's determination to develop nuclear weapons appears unchecked either by technical setbacks or outside political pressure.

More ominously, the failure by Kim's son, Kim Jong Il, to inherit all the powers and authority of his father suggests a continuing power struggle in Pyongyang. All this comes against a background of economic decline, natural catastrophe, corruption and mismanagement on a scale that has put up to 20 million people at risk of starvation. The South has tried to increase its leverage with rice shipments and emergency aid; the response has been, by turns, truculent or emollient, with North Korean officials seeming to accept a degree of openness and reform and then retreating into hostile secrecy.

North Korea has no friends. Its former allies, especially China, have attempted to counsel moderation but have little leverage and are as concerned as other neighbours by the threat of a desperate, pre-emptive strike to save an imploding regime. Neither United Nations protests nor American warnings appear to have effect. Patience, persistence, vigilance and a strong military preparedness are the only way of dealing with a country whose leaders have brought it to the brink of disaster and who seem quite prepared to bring others down in its fall.

WINE AND A BOX OF ROSES

A praline and a pichet a day keep the doctor away

Science, so long a churlish presence at the gourmand's table, has lately proved itself a very welcome guest. For many years the path to prominence for the men in white coats was a prim one. Scientists anxious to emerge from behind their Bunsen burners and into the limelight did so most effectively by revealing the existence of life-threatening compounds lurking in hitherto innocent victuals. Butter was framed as a new serial killer. To tuck into a marbled steak was to gamble with the grim reaper more surely than if one were swallowing razor blades. But now comes news that two of the treats hitherto thought most wicked have been found by scientists to be, in every sense, life-enhancing.

Red wine and chocolate — the seducer's tools and the consolation of those crossed in love — have always influenced the operations of the heart. Now scientists believe they are also good for the arteries. Writing in *The Lancet*, researchers have revealed the existence of a substance in both which, far from straining the veins, acts on them with all the cleansing vigour of bran on other bits of internal piping. It is deliciously ironic that the research should come from California, America's decaffeinated zone, where the salads are more skimpily dressed than the lifeguards of *Baywatch*. The raising of the bon-viveurs' banner in the precincts of the University of California is a victory as complete as Bruce's at Bannockburn.

Although it is a defeat for puritanism, the World in another sense. Chocolate, like the potato and the Peking duck with sun-dried tomato pizza, is one of the few foods indigenous to America. The first European lips to taste the New World's dusky drink were those of proud Cortes when the Aztecs presented him with *xocoatl* in 1519. The Spanish kept the potion to themselves, and it only reached England in the 18th century. But since then, thanks to Mr Cadbury here and Mr Hershey in the USA, it has become the best thing with which to end dinner.

Wiser heads and fuller stomachs in Britain will greet the publication of the American data with the nonchalance of a fine judge of bloodstock seeing his hunch backed by the formbook. The accumulation of information helps reassure, but prior prejudice framed by instinct is always a better guide. How could confections as delicious as M Suchard's and elixirs as seductive as Baron Rothschild's be anything other than beneficial? Experiences that exquisite, whether at the table, or in the boudoir, create such a sense of well-being that they act more effectively than anything from the apothecary.

It is too much to expect that a straitened public purse might allow chocolate on prescription much as, in more enlightened days, expectant mothers could claim a half of milk stout. However a vigorous campaign from the authorities to hymn the prophylactic virtues of Bordeaux and Bournville is the least we might expect. A Praline and a pichet should keep the doctor away

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Churchill's real vision of Europe

From Professor Lord Beloff, FBA

Sir, In your admirable leading article on Churchill's 1946 Zurich speech (September 18) you said that his conclusion on Britain's future role in Europe was "reasonably clear". Surely it is absolutely clear.

It is worth saying this since one still finds people claiming Churchill as a supporter of Britain being part of a federal European system ("Tory turmoil over Europe erupts again", later editions, September 19). Neither at Zurich nor later did he envisage such a future for this country, and detailed evidence beyond Zurich is available to prove this point.

Your leading article rather dismissed continuing arguments over where Churchill stood on this issue. As long as he is misrepresented in some quarters as favouring British membership of a "United States of Europe" professional historians are bound to put the record straight, as I did in my essay *Churchill and Europe*, included in *Churchill* by Robert Blake and Wm Roger Lewis (Oxford University Press, 1993), and again in my recent book *Britain and European Union: Dialogue of the Deaf* (Macmillan, September 1996).

Yours truly,
BELOFF,
House of Lords.
September 19.

From Lord Harris of High Cross

Sir, Is it not ironic that the letter from Sir Edward Heath and his dwindling allies, calling in aid "Churchill's Zurich vision" was addressed to *The Independent*, given that it was written on the very day that your leading article finally exploded the oft-repeated myth that Churchill in 1946 called for Britain to submerge itself in a united Europe?

The signatories fall back on such wholly bogus arguments to keep alive the self-delusory dream, especially beloved by former Foreign Secretaries and repeated in this latest letter, that Britain should continue to strive for "leadership of Europe". Some hope! If their opponents (including Churchill) are to be dubbed "little Englanders", they might more accurately be described as "Eurochauvinists".

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HARRIS,
House of Lords.
September 19.

From Mr Derek J. Pearmund

Sir, "Our greatest patriots have never been little Englanders," state the Tory grandees in their letter to *The Independent* today.

Neither have they been "little Europeans". Our nation is, and always has been, a nation of international, global traders, and our greatest patriots have always recognised that.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK J. PEARMUND,
Timbers,
Byfleet Road, Cobham, Surrey.
September 19.

From Mr Colin Bullen

Sir, Dr Brivati's otherwise excellent article on Hugh Gaitskell (September 14) was marred by its unnecessary attack on contemporary opponents of the European Union. If Dr Brivati recognises that Gaitskell was motivated by honourable motives, why cannot he accept that others too may be moved by considerations which have nothing to do with xenophobia?

Nevertheless, it is sobering to contemplate the fact that, were it not for Gaitskell's untimely death, he would almost certainly have become Prime Minister in 1964, and UK policy would have then been so oriented that it is highly unlikely Heath would have had the opportunity to fulfil his dream of submerging Britain into the European superstate.

On such a relatively small matter as the health of one man do the fates of nations turn.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BULLEN
(National Membership Secretary,
UK Independence Party),
119 Douglas Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

From Sir Peter Smithers

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg ("Deflate the big idea, not our economies", September 16) sets out some of the consequences implicit in the adoption of a single European currency, but he did not include the most significant.

When I assumed the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe in 1964 the Secretary-General of the European Free Trade Association (Efta) at the time, Sir Frank Figgures, wrote to wish me well. I replied, incautiously, that he was fortunate to preside in an organisation which dealt with economics while I must do so in one which dealt with politics. "Have you not noticed," he inquired, "that an issue remains economic so long as everybody agrees, but that as soon as they disagree it becomes political?"

This tells us what we need to know about the consequences of a single European currency. The hardship inflicted by such a system in bread-and-butter terms must inevitably give rise to bitter political conflict, the seeds of which are already sown in mass unemployment in continental Europe.

It is ironic that the men who have gone too far too fast in trying to set up a federal Europe are by their own efforts preparing its destruction.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PETER SMITHERS,
6921-Vico Morcote, Switzerland.
September 19.

'Empty caskets' in the Welsh valleys

From the Reverend Kevin Watson

Sir, John Wesley spoke no Welsh; hence his preaching in the Principality was far less effective than that of his contemporary, Hywel Harris. Consequently, 18th-century Welsh enthusiasm focused on Harris's Calvinism. In changing Welsh society, Harris's theology eventually proved shorter-lived than Wesley's.

All forms of dissent, religious or otherwise, run the gauntlet of social and cultural change, whether change comes through language, family, class, economics or religion itself. All these factors have contributed to the decline of nonconformist Christian influence in Wales ("Chapels in the valley of tears", Simon Jenkins, September 7). Welsh nonconformist piety is not without issue in the wider world, but too many of its "caskets" lie empty and vulnerable.

If Simon Jenkins seeks additional candidates for attention, I would nominate the Swansea area. The three-nights blitz in February 1941 and post-war rehousing broke up old neighbourhoods, with their myriad loyalties, and have left chapels and their burial grounds crumbling and often vandalised around the city centre. Six miles westward, chapels at Loughor and Bwlchymynydd were the midwives of the last Welsh evangelical revival 92 years ago.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN WATSON,
271 Pentregethin Road,
Gendros, Swansea.
September 17.

From the Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Sir, Your readers should be aware that this commission is co-ordinating the creation of a basic record of all Nonconformist buildings in Wales and an intensive photographic or drawn survey of those considered to be of particular architectural, historic or religious significance.

This work is being taken forward in close co-operation with Capel (the Chapels Heritage Society), the National Library of Wales, the Board of Celtic Studies and Cadw (Welsh National Heritage). The resulting material will be located in various repositories, including the National Monuments Record for Wales here in Aberystwyth, and it is planned to access it through a common, computerised index.

As a result of these efforts, Nonconformist chapels should continue to exist in sufficient numbers to remain a characteristic part of the Welsh landscape for many years to come.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WHITE, Secretary,
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales,
Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.
September 17.

From the Reverend John Lawson

Sir, The picture used to illustrate Simon Jenkins's article, showing John Wesley preaching at Gwennap Pit in Cornwall [see also letters, September 9 and 11] is well known among those interested in Methodist curiosities. However, it is so romanticised that it bears no relation to the actual place.

Gwennap Pit is a large circular depression in the ground, probably formed by the collapse of old mine-workings. When, preaching outdoors, John Wesley first went there in 1762, it was not to find a craggy eminence, for there is no such thing in sight. It was to find a place where he would be sheltered from the wind.

Wesley preached there many times, and it became a hallowed place for Cornish Methodism. Later the people improved it as a place for open-air meetings by digging the sides of the depression into shallow terraces, easier to stand or sit upon.

Gwennap Pit is now valued and cared for by Cornish Methodism, used on occasion for large gatherings, and visited by members of Methodist historical societies from all over the world.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LAWSON,
57 Homecourt House,
Bartholomew Street West,
Exeter, Devon.
September 8.

Plutonium trade

From Mrs Madeline Haigh

Sir, Mr Llew Smith, MP (letter, September 11), is right to highlight the hazards of air shipment of plutonium.

At last week's meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency moves to increase safety standards for air transport of mixed oxide fuel (MOX) were rejected as a result of resistance from countries with heavy commercial interests in the nuclear industry, such as the UK, France, Germany and Japan. This means reprocessed nuclear fuel, a mixture of plutonium oxide and uranium oxide, will continue to be flown in containers which withstand impacts of no more than 30mph.

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots Association has warned that an airframe failure at high altitude would cause "an ecological catastrophe". Consignments of this highly toxic fuel have already been flown from Carlisle to Switzerland, presumably following a flight path across England.

In the tenth anniversary year of the Chernobyl accident, surely the IAEA should honour its role as watchdog for nuclear safety rather than compromise standards for commercial reasons.

Yours faithfully,
MADELINE HAIGH,
The Lodge, New Hall,
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.
September 17.

Law on 'stalking'

From Lord Donaldson of Lymington

Sir, The urgent need for a specific criminal offence of "stalking", notwithstanding the problems of definition, has been underlined by the recent failure of a prosecution for affray and causing grevious bodily harm with intent (report, September 18).

Meanwhile, it is within the power of the civil courts to intervene by means of injunctive orders, disobedience of which could lead to imprisonment. Indeed, they have done so in the past.

The problem is that many victims have neither the requisite knowledge nor the means to seek such protection.

In view of the quasi-criminal nature of this conduct and public interest in providing protection for victims, should not the Attorney-General consider bringing civil proceedings, either in his own name or that of the victim, at least in the more serious cases such as that featured in your report?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. DONALDSON,
House of Lords.
September 18.

Martin Bormann

From Mr Milton Shulman

Sir, In his review of *OpJB* by Christopher Creighton (September 14) about the author's involvement with Ian Fleming in bringing Martin Bormann, Hitler's private secretary, to this country at the end of the Second World War, Andrew Roberts writes that I "have been taken in by the book's absurd claims".

In a long telephone conversation with Mr Roberts before he wrote his review I told him that in the six years in which I have been involved with this book, a number of intelligence experts have been paid by me and others to investigate its claims: they have come up with numerous doubts about details, but Creighton has rebutted all these negative findings to my satisfaction.

I also told him I had met "Susan Kemp", one of the most important protagonists (see my earlier letter, August 22), and that I am convinced she is who the book says she is and, that being the case, that the operation must have taken place.

None of this is contained in Mr Roberts's review. He does acknowledge, as I explained in my earlier letter, that I and my colleagues have offered a reward of £20,000 to anyone who can, on factual evidence, prove OpJB did not take place. Curiously enough, he does not believe that anyone will ever win it.

Yours faithfully,
MILTON SHULMAN,
51g Eaton Square, SW1.
September 14.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046

Majury's prayer book

From the Reverend S. J. Davies

Sir, Perhaps you may allow me, as the prisoner-of-war chaplain in Camp 2 in North Korea, 1951-53, mentioned in your fine and moving obituary to Major-General James Majury (September 13), to add a personal word.

When I was placed in solitary confinement by our Chinese captors (not Japanese as you state) on the baseless but predictable charge of being "a trouble-maker and cunning priest using religious services as a cloak for slanderous reactionary political propaganda, and undermining the camp authority", Captain Majury (as he was then) first assumed lay leadership of our communal worship until I was eventually returned "under surveillance" to the compound.

Later, in October 1952, the Chinese abruptly split Camp 2, taking half the prisoners, including Captain Majury, to a new compound. As I was left in the original compound he became full-time lay chaplain.

It was there, as a mark of deep and affectionate esteem, that his fellow prisoners created for him that exquisite book of prayers referred to in your obituary. It was made clandestinely from coarse Chinese cigarette-rolling paper with beautifully illuminated capitals and designs using a few crayons. The book was not used in the camp but presented to Captain Majury after the armistice and shortly before the prisoners' release.

Only after Chinese obstructive actions and arguments was the prayer book allowed to be brought out.

Yours obediently,
S. J. DAVIES,
The Devon and Exeter Institution,
7 Cathedral Close, Exeter, Devon.
September 14.

Secrecy on future of Naval College

From the Chairman of the Greenwich Society

Sir, Unless and until the future of the Royal Naval College is settled (letters, September 6 and 9) Greenwich faces the dismal prospect of the millennium arriving with a gaping hole in its very centre.

Important questions need to be urgently addressed — among them, in particular, the ability of the University of Greenwich to cope with the financial burden of becoming "core tenant" of the site and its surrounding buildings. For so long as details of the university's business plans are kept private and the figures in the advisory group's report are not disclosed (report, September 3), this concern will persist.

If the Government feels inhibited by some scruple of commercial confidentiality from publishing these figures, the university itself must do so. In return, the university is entitled to expect the Government to meet their financial responsibilities, as indicated in the advisory group's report.

A similar lack of openness surrounds the arrangements for the appointment of trustees for the new trust which, as Lord Lewin pointed out in his letter of September 9, should be set up without further delay. Presumably they are to be appointed by the Government; and presumably also their names are intended to inspire public confidence. More detail about how ministers intend to go about the process is required.

The Greenwich Society joins others in calling on the Government to act with speed, openness and a proper regard for its financial responsibilities.

Yours faithfully,
URSULA BOWYER,
Chairman,
The Greenwich Society,
111 Maze Hill, Greenwich, SE10.
September 16.

Prince at Cambridge

From Bishop Hugh Montefiore

Sir, I am sorry that you should have printed that when the Prince of Wales was at Cambridge "ecclesiastical dissent poured into his receptive ear, not least from lectures he attended at nearby Great St Mary's . . . organised by . . . Hugh Montefiore" ("Prince has searched his soul for the truth of faith", September 10).

I demur. As vicar of the university church it was my policy to invite undergraduates to hear the best preachers that were available and to teach and preach a faith credible for the mid-20th century.

Of course the Church as an institution is always subject to criticism; but to teach ecclesiastical dissent, no.

Yours faithfully,
†HUGH MONTEFIORE,
White Lodge, 23 Bellevue Road,
Wandsworth Common, SW17.
September 12.

Church music

From Mr Paul Bailey

Sir, Mr John B. Harris's belief that the substitution of digital music will help to improve the quality of church music (letter, September 12; also letters, September 16) is, I fear, sadly misplaced.

Other than in our centres of choral excellence most members of congregations will continue to sing their favourite hymns at their own pace and key, regardless of that played by organ or digital musician.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL BAILEY,
The Wolery, Basingstoke Road,
Ramsdell, Tadley, Hampshire.
September 17.

From Mrs Linda Brooke

Sir, People do not go to church to listen to the organ, they go to church to worship the Lord God; whilst they await the beginning of corporate worship they may choose to listen to music or they may choose to talk to their friends, it is their choice.

I long for the day when church musicians stick to their job and stop thinking and acting like prima donnas on a concert platform. The church musician is responsible for providing a musical accompaniment to the sung parts of worship — no more.

Yours faithfully,
LINDA BROOKE,
82 Osborne Road,
Morecambe, Lancashire.
September 16.

From Mr Neil Wright

Sir, Church organists should not necessarily feel affronted at the congregation's eagerness to leave at the end of a service (Mr Alan Millard's letter, September 12).

I can remember the scramble for the exit at the end of the final showing of the day in cinemas. We were told by our elders as we stood to attention for the national anthem that the others were striving to avoid missing their last bus home; no disrespect was intended.

However, when we left, public houses near by seemed full of people trying to get a drink before closing time.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL WRIGHT,
Bakers, 14 Adderley Street,
Uppingham, Rutland, Leicestershire.
September 15

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

September 19: The Princess Royal this morning attended the Sixth Session of the Residential Meeting of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at Christ's College, Cambridge, and was received by Mr Michael Marshall (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire).

ST JAMES'S PALACE

September 19: The Prince of Wales today attended the final morning of the Seminar organised by His Royal Highness's Business and the Environment programme at Madingley Hall, Cambridge.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Youth Business Trust, this afternoon visited St Barnabas Press, St Barnabas Street, Cambridge, set up with help from the Trust, met artists working at the design studio, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trusts, later took part in a discussion with chairmen and volunteers from the Trusts at the *Cambridge Evening News*, Winship Road, Milton, Cambridge, after which The Prince of Wales visited the newsroom and officially opened the new premises.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception and delivered the Soil Association's Lady Eve Balfour Memorial Lecture at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE

September 19: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this morning visited the Marazion Lifeboat Station, Castle House, St Michael's Mount, Marazion, Cornwall and was met on his arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall (The Lady Mary Holborow).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Lizard Lifeboat Station, Kilcobben Cove, Landewednack, the Lizard; and later visited the Falmouth Lifeboat Station, Tinners Walk, Port-Pendennis, Falmouth.

The Duke later visited the Fowey Lifeboat Station, Berrillis Yard, Fowey, Cornwall.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, will open the new Mobile Bibleworld during the Scottish Christian Resources Exhibition at the Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow, at 9.30am: as Visitor, Strathcarron Hospice, will visit the hospice at Randolph Hill, Denny, Stirlingshire, at 11.45; and will open the new office of Matthew Gloag and Son, West Kinfauns, Perth, at 2.40.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the RNLI, will visit Looe lifeboat station at Seafront Shelter, West End, East Looe, at 10.25; will visit Plymouth lifeboat station at Custom House Lane, at 11.45; and will visit Exmouth lifeboat house, Esplanade, at 1.00. Later he will attend the B Division reunion dinner at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, at 7.30.

Lord Daresbury

Memorial services for Lord Daresbury will be held at Trinity Church, Jersey, on September 26, at 11.30am and St John's Church, Walton, Warrington, on October 10, at 11.30am.

Sailors' Day

The King George's Fund for Sailors is grateful to those who supported Sailors' Day in London on June 4. The total collection was £10,219.28. A further £30,171.03 was donated in response to the Sailor's Day Appeal. The gross sum will be distributed to nautical charities on whose behalf the flag day is organised by fund.

Appointment

British Society of Gastroenterology

Professor R.H. Dowling appointed President of the British Society of Gastroenterology at the Society's annual dinner on September 19.

The Royal College of Radiologists

At the Annual General Meeting of the College, held yesterday at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, the following were elected Officers for the year 1996-97:

President, Dr M J Brindle: Vice President of the College and Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology, Dr I Watt; Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Oncology, Dr T J Priestman: Warden of the Fellowship and Warden of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology, Professor P Armstrong: Warden of the Faculty of Clinical Oncology, Dr R D Hunter: Registrar of the College and Registrar of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology, Dr I W McCall: Registrar of the Faculty of Clinical Oncology, Dr D Ash: Editor of the Faculty of Clinical Oncology, Dr W G Jones: Editor of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology, Professor R H Reznek.

School news

Prior Park Preparatory School, Cricklade

Michaelmas Term has begun at PPPS in this, the school's 50th year since foundation. The Golden Anniversary will be celebrated with a Mass at the school at 10.30am on Friday, October 18, 1996, by the Archbishop of Cardiff, an Old Boy of the school. Former pupils will be made most welcome at the Mass and at other events to be organised during the academic year. For further details, please contact the School on 01793 750275.

St David's College, Llandudno

The Autumn term started last week. Peter Cable is Head Boy and Jason Kynes his Deputy. House Captains are Alan Hodkinson (Cader), Oliver Ashton (Snowdon) and Simon Hargreaves (Tryfan). The Appeal for the new 6th Form Boarding House is soon to be launched. Old Boys' weekend is November 9 and 10, and term ends after the Carol Service on December 13.

Today's birthdays

Lord Berkeley, 57; Mr John Dankworth, jazz musician, 69; Mr Geoffrey Dear, HM Inspector of Constabulary, Worcester, 59; the Earl of Ducie, 45; the Very Rev George Earle, SJ, former Headmaster, Stonyhurst College, 71; Sir Douglas Falconer, former High Court judge, 82; Mr Mike Hall, MP, 44; Mr John Harle, saxophonist, 40; the Right Rev C.C.W. James, former Bishop of Winchester, 70; General Sir Garry Johnson, 59; Miss Sophia Loren, actress, 62; Sir Duncan McDonald, former chairman, Northern Engineering Industries, 75; Miss Anne McIntosh, MEP, 42; Professor R.M.H. McMinn, anatomist, 73; Mr D. L. Mahoney, chairman and chief executive officer, Alexander Howden Group, 46; Miss Jane Manning, soprano, 58; Professor David Marquand, Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford, 62; Miss Christine Oddy, MEP, 41.

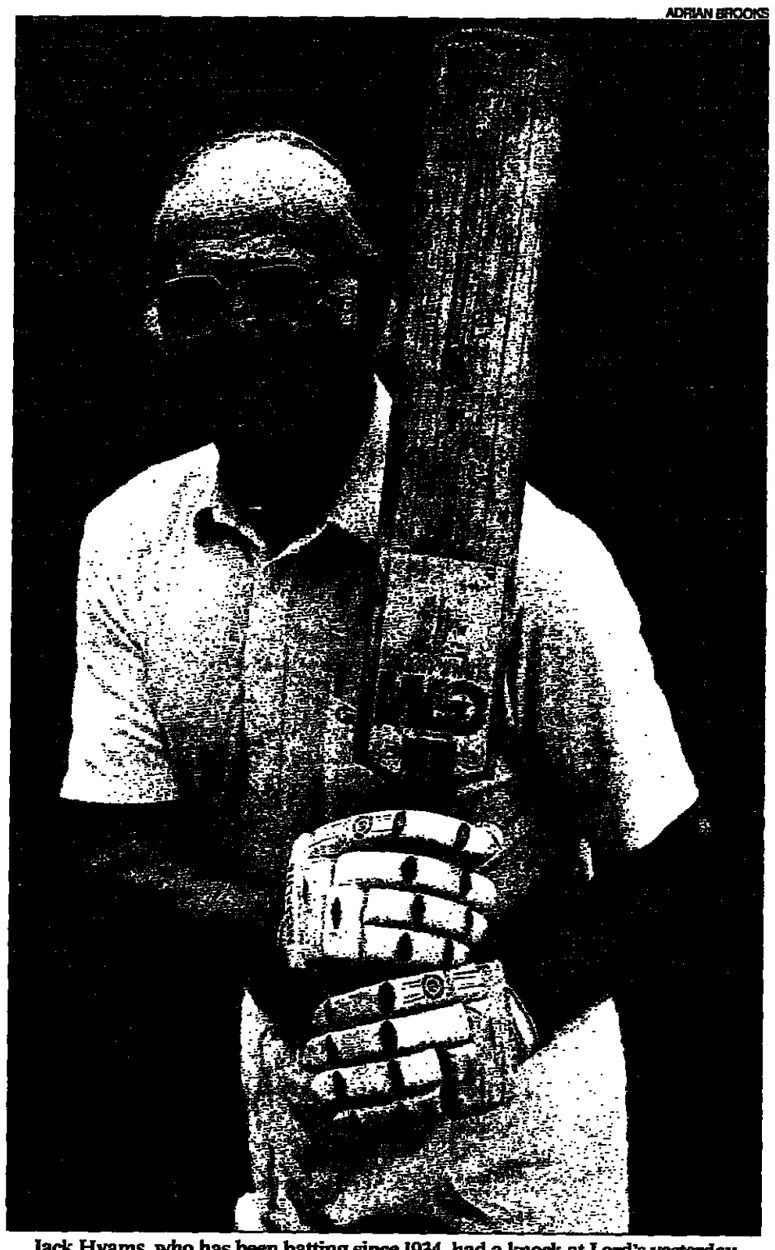
The Right Rev Kenneth Riches, former Bishop of Lincoln, 88; Mr José Rivero, golfer, 41; Mr Alan Simpson, MP, 48; Sir John Summerfield, former Chief Justice, Cayman Islands, 76; Mr Jeremy Varcoe, former director-general, United World Colleges, 59; Sir John Whitehead, diplomat, 64; Mr Fred Winter, former racehorse trainer, 70.

Highest scoring batsman is 76 and 117,876 not out

Pensioner prepares for his 64th season

BY ROBIN YOUNG

ADRIAN BROOKS



Jack Hyams, who has been batting since 1934, had a knock at Lord's yesterday to end a year in which he scored his 170th century at senior club level.

THE world's most prolific batsman ended his 63rd season yesterday with a knock at Lord's. Jack Hyams, a retired pet shop owner now aged 76, has been punishing bowlers since 1934, and this season notched up his 170th century at senior club level.

The sprightly pensioner from New Barnet, Hertfordshire, has now racked up nearly 118,000 runs, making him by far the biggest run-getter in the history of cricket. Yet after scoring tons in 58 successive seasons and breaking almost every record in the book, he still has no intention of hanging up his bat.

Despite an arduous season playing for Bronsbury in the Middlesex County League and Cheshunt in the Hertfordshire League he turned out yesterday for the Cross Arrows, a team of ex-professionals and former MCC coaches, at Lord's.

"I'm almost certainly the oldest man to play there," said Jack. "I'll play while I'm still fit and I hope to be going strong again next season. I haven't lost my appetite for the game or for scoring runs."

Jack, who in earlier days played three times for the MCC, achieved his 170th century earlier this year — a precise 100 not out — while playing for Bronsbury against Edmonton.

"I hadn't scored a century since 1991 when I was 71," he said. "I thought I'd never get another because I get very tired when I reach the 90s. It's not just running my runs, but I have to run, those of the chap at the other end as well. Getting that ton has given me a new lease of life."

Jack began his love affair with the game as an eight year old living a ball's throw from Kennington Oval.

He clocked up 20 centuries before the war and afterwards played top-class cricket in the Yorkshire and Birmingham leagues, as well as for the MCC, taking the field against legends including Lock, Laker, Trueman, Pocock, Subba Row, Arnold and the fearsome Wes Hall.

"Hall was the fastest bowler I've ever faced," Mr Hyams said. "I was 46, playing for West Bromwich, and Hall was in his prime. Somehow we managed to put on 100 for the first wicket and Wes didn't bowl me one bouncer. Afterwards I asked him why. He said it was because he'd seen my grey hair."

In later years, Jack has played most of his cricket for Stoics, the Forty Club, London Counties, the wandering Magdala club, the Mounted Police, Cricket World and Cockfosters.

He meticulously logs every single and his record-breaking career aggregate (before yesterday) of 117,876 runs comfortably beats the previous known best, 87,000 by E.M. Grace, W.G.'s brother.

Jack Hyams' record of centuries in seven successive decades beats Jack Hobbs's ton-gathering career spanning five decades, though Hobbs scored more centuries, a total of 244 in all his matches. Jack Hyams also scored at least one century every season from 1934 to 1991 and at least 1,000 runs each year from 1934 to 1994.

For the record, his batting average over 63 years is 40.6; his 1,283 wickets have come at a bowling average of 20.05; he has scored 29 centuries since the age of 50; and his most runs in a season was 4,328, in 1953.

His highest score was 199 not out in an RAF match in Oxfordshire in 1944 and his best bowling feat was a hat-trick with the first three balls of the innings for the Forty Club against a South of England Select XI when he was aged 62.

Mr Hyams' extraordinary career was the subject of an article in *Wisden's Cricket Monthly* five years ago, and this year's century might qualify him for an updating paragraph or two.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir George Robey, comedian, London, 1869; Upton Sinclair, novelist, Baltimore, Maryland, 1878; Stevie Smith (pseudonym of Florence Smith), poet, Hull, 1902; Kenneth More, actor, Gerrards Cross, 1914.

DEATHS: Robert Emmet, Irish patriot, executed, Dublin, 1803; Jacob Grimm, philologist and collector of folk tales, Berlin, 1863; Jean Sibelius, Järvenpää, Finland, 1957.

Salisbury Cathedral was consecrated, 1258.

Ferdinand Magellan set sail from Seville with a fleet of five small ships in an attempt to circumnavigate the world, 1519.

British, French and Turkish forces defeated the Russians at the battle of Alma in the Crimea, 1854. Six Victoria Crosses were awarded.

The *Queen Elizabeth 2* was launched, Clydebank, 1967.

Dinners

HM Government

Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a dinner given last night by Her Majesty's Government in Admiralty House in honour of Mr Javier Solana, Secretary-General of Nato.

Glaziers' Company

Mr P.G. Lowe, Master of the Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass, with the Wardens received members of the court and their guests at the St Matthew's Day Quarter Court dinner held last night at Glaziers' Hall. The Earl of Antrim, Brigadier J. Wilkes and the Masters of the Plumbers', Farriers' and Loriners' Companies were among the guests.

Royal College of Radiologists

Dr M.J. Brindle, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, and Mrs Brindle were the hosts at the annual dinner held last night at the Café Royal. Sir Donald Irvine, President of of the General Medical Council, and Sir Kenneth Calman, Chief Medical Officer, were the speakers.

British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing

At the annual dinner of the 35th conference of the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, held on Wednesday at the Forte Posthouse Hotel, Erskine, Glasgow, the 1995 Roy Sharpe Prize was awarded to Dr P. Cawley, of Imperial College, London. The John Grimwade Medal was awarded to Mr R.A. Smith of the Defence Research Agency, the Ron Halmshaw Award to Mr J.-E. Holmström, and the Nemet Award to Dr C.I. Nicholls of SMIS.

Latest wills

Richard Thomas **Masterman**, of Sutcombe, Holsworthy, Devon, left estate valued at £4,398,676 net.

Georgina Mary **Morley**, of Cucklington, Wincanton, Somerset, left estate valued at £2,198,610 net.

Phyllis Mary **Hinde**, of Sneyd Park, Bristol, left estate valued at £1,331,635 net.

Thomas Douglas **Davies**, of Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,062,477 net.

Frederick Denison Maurice **Hocking**, of Carlyon Bay, St Austell, Cornwall, left estate valued at £1,011,461 net.

He left £250 each to the Basset Hound Club care of the Kennel Club; PDSA; St Francis Home for Animals, Newquay, WWF UK.

Philip Henry **Eliot**, of Penzance, Cornwall, left estate valued at £1,090,459 net.

David Meurig **Morgan**, of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, left estate valued at £1,794,786 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.F. Fagan and Miss C.E. Hodge

The engagement is announced between Tim, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Fagan, of Sauls Farm, Buckinghamshire, and Clare, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hodge, of Ballingdon Hall, Suffolk.

Mr M.N. Garnett and Miss H.F. Bartleet

The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Captain and Mrs Michael Garnett, of South Brent, Devon, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bartleet, of Great Tey, Essex.

Mr D.V. Geller and Miss L.M.A. Bath

The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs Alan Geller, of Stanmore, Middlesex, and Isabel Moira Ann, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alfred Bath, of Stanmore, Middlesex.

Mr A.N. Graham and Miss E.L. Hartley

The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dan Graham, of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Joe Hartley, of Lower Almondsbury, Bristol.

Captain A.G.C. Hatherley and Dr C.C.d'A. MacGregor

The engagement is announced between Captain Carew Hatherley, Grenadier Guards, younger son of Mr and Mrs Colin Hatherley, of Churston, Devon, and Candida, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin MacGregor, of Heddington, Wiltshire.

Mr P.E. Lawrence and Miss J.Z. Bieber

The engagement is announced between Paul Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Lawrence, of Finchley, and Juliette Zipporah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Bieber, of Wimbledon.

Mr D.M.C. Miles and Miss M.M. Redman

The engagement is announced between Dominic, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Miles, of Fressingfield, Suffolk, and Michelle, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Redman, of Marple, Cheshire.

Mr T.D. Nicholls and Miss L.C. Meacock

The engagement is announced between Tom, younger son of Mr and Mrs Francis Nicholls, of Sheepcotes, Coggeshall, Essex, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ashley Meacock, of Fudlers Hall, Mashbury, Essex.

Mr D.A. Ridd and Miss A.V. Phillips

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Allan Ridd, of Chelsea, London, and Amanda, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Nevill Phillips, of Stansted, Kent.

Mr M. Sonnorp and Miss T.E. Stringer

The engagement is announced between Magnus, son of Mr and Mrs Per A. Pettersson, of Motala, Sweden, and Tara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Stringer, of Crawley, West Sussex.

Mr A.H. Widgery and Mrs S.L. Dwyer

The engagement is announced between Andrew Widgery, of Godalming, Surrey, and Sarah Dwyer, née Griffith, of Bowlhead Green, Surrey.

Marriages

Mr A.J. Given and Miss E.J. Capell

The marriage took place on September 7, at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Shedfield, between Andrew Given and Elizabeth Capell. The Rev Geoffrey Morrell officiated.

Mr A.G.H. Laird and Miss R.E. Lowry

The marriage took place on Saturday, September 14, at the Church of St Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall, Essex, of Mr Alistair Laird, younger son of the late John Laird and of Mrs Chris Laird, of Pujols, France, to Miss Ruth Lowry, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ron Lowry, of Coggeshall. The Rev Bill Brockie, of St Martin's, Tynecastle, Edinburgh, officiated, assisted by the Rev David Beeton.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Aislinn Kane and Alicia Eaton. Mr Douglas Bewsher was best man.

The reception was held at the Coach House, Great Saling and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr S.E.J. Riley and Miss G.J.M. Kenny

The marriage took place on Saturday, September 14, at The Priory Church of St Laurence, Blackmore, of Mr Simon Riley, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Riley, of Blackmore, Essex, to Miss Gillian Kenny, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kenny, of Hutton, Essex. The Rev Ivy Crawford officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Mr Timothy Riley was best man.

Memorial services

Viscount Bearsted

A memorial service for Viscount Bearsted was held yesterday at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John's Wood. Rabbi John Rayner officiated and the Hon L.H.L. "Tim" Cohen, brother-in-law, gave an address.

The Hon Natalie, the Hon Zoe, the Hon Juliet, the Hon Harry, Natasha, Emily, Sophie and Benjamin Samuel, grandchildren, sang *The Bing-a-Bong Song* by their grandfather. Among others present were:

Nina Viscountess Bearsted (widow), Viscount and Dr Viscountess Bearsted and the Hon Michael and Mrs Samuel (sons and daughters-in-law), the Hon Eugenie Samuel (granddaughter), the Hon A G and Mrs Samuel (brother and sister-in-law), Mr and the Hon Mrs Robert Waley Cohen and other members of the family; representatives of Hill Samuel Bank, the Royal Free Hospital, the Royal Hospital School of Medicine and many other friends and former colleagues.

The Right Rev Ross Hook

The Archbishop of Canterbury was represented by the Right Rev Frank Sargeant, Bishop at Lambeth, at a memorial service for the Right Rev Ross Hook held yesterday at St Luke's, Sydney Street, SW3. The Rev Derek Watson officiated.

Mr Philip Hook, son, and Mr and Mrs Jan Zachary, son-in-law and daughter, gave readings. The Right Rev R.D. Say gave an address and the Right Rev Lord Runcie pronounced the blessing.

Mrs Angelique Hook, daughter-in-law, sang an aria and a bugler from the Royal Marines Band sounded *Last Post and Reveille*.

The Bishop of Newcastle, the Bishop of Bradford, the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev C.W.J. Bowles, the Right Rev J.K. Cavell (representing Salisbury Diocese), the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, the Right Rev Dennis Hawker, the Right Rev Edward Roberts, the Right Rev M.A.P. Wood, the Provost of Bradford, the Very Rev D.L. Edwards, the Archdeacon of Bradford and Canon Peter Brett (also representing the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury) were robed and in procession.

Luncheon

American Chamber of Commerce (UK)

Sir Brian Goswell, President of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK), presided at a luncheon held yesterday at One Whitehall Place in honour of Mr Jerry Greenwald, President of United Airlines.

Reception

Fulbright Commission

A reception was held last night at the American Embassy in honour of American Fulbright Scholars at the start of their year in the United Kingdom. Mr Robin Berrington, Cultural Attaché at the embassy and Chairman of the Fulbright Commission, welcomed the guests.

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For the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all mankind; and by it we are disciplined to renounce godless ways and worldly desires. Titus 2 : 11,12

BIRTHS

BETHWAITE - On September 8th, to Jennie (née Woodcock) and Anthony, a daughter, Georgina Alice, a sister for Rory.

DINEEN - See Sieghart.

KENNELEY-PERI - On September 10th 1996, to Caroline (née Bassett) and Jeremy, a daughter, Emma Catherine.

LANE - On September 15th pm at The Portland Hospital Arianna Suhmet made her debut for Elizabeth, Henry and the world.

SIEGHART - On September 13th, to Molly Dineen and William Sieghart, a daughter, Maud Ann Dineen Sieghart.

STEINBERG - On September 11th 1996, to Tracylena and John, a daughter, Florence Rebecca Morgan, a sister for David and Maxwell - another grandchild for Pat and Phillip Stainberg and Gloria and Peter Morgan.

WALKER - On August 31st 1996, to Catherine (née Bull) and David, a daughter, Anna Elizabeth, their first child, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

WICKHAM - On September 16th 1996, to Madeleine (née Townley) and Henry, a son, Frederick Ralph Richard 'Freddy'.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

LORIG-NOWACZEWSKA - On 20th September 1971 David to Liz at Muswell Hill, London. Now in Tring, Herts.

DEATHS

BEAMAN - Hugh aged 43 years peacefully on 16th September after a long illness bravely borne, beloved youngest son of Michael and Geraldine. Funeral Service and interment at St Anne's Church, Oxenhall, near Newent, Glos. on Thursday 26th September at 2.30 pm. No flowers: donations if desired to The Royal Marsden Hospital, London or Trinity Hospice, London c/o Smith's Funeral Services, Furnace Lane, Newent, Glos. GL18 1DD.

BURGESS - Peacefully at home on 18th September, Sylvia Constance, beloved wife of Nigel, mother of Anthony and Simon and grandmother. Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorium on Thursday 26th September at 11.30 am. Immediate family only. No flowers, but donations if desired to N.S.P.C.C. c/o J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, London W8 6LA, tel: (0171) 937-0757.

COMERIDGE - Douglas Leonard FCA, aged 83, elder son of Samuel, late of Hove, died peacefully on September 18th after 3½ years of ceaseless care in Downlands Park Nursing Home, Haywards Heath. Family burial will be in Hove Cemetery. No flowers, but his coffin will be adorned by a crusaders badge to whose service he gave years of his life.

CONSTANCE - On 17th September, Stephen Justice aged 85, died peacefully at home in Johannesburg.

DARBY - Maureen Frances at Mount Vernon Hospital on September 17th, aged 56 years, after an illness bravely borne. Beloved wife of James, dearly cherished mother of Michael and Paul and adoring grandmother of baby Alexander. She will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends. Funeral Service at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, on Tuesday 24th September at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign at 10 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1 4JL.

GIBBS - Caroline Mary died peacefully on Monday 16th September at Penn, Buckinghamshire. Funeral and service at Amersham Crematorium at 12.30 pm Tuesday 24th September.

GILL - Mabel Henrietta (Mabs) died 19th July 1996 Melbourne Australia, formerly of London. Contact Mary Gill, Tel: 61 3 96453787.

GORDON - Jean Alison, on 18th September 1996, aged 76. Formerly of BOAC/British Airways. A much loved sister, aunt, cousin and friend. Cremation at 2.30 pm on Thursday 26th September 1996 at St John's Crematorium, Hermitage Road, Woking. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Nurses Fund. Enquiries to Walter G Worff Funeral Directors, (01932) 843143.

HENRY - Unexpectedly on September 15th Dorothy wife of the late Sam Henry. Greatly missed by her daughters Margaret and Katherine and families. Private cremation. Enquiries to Arthur Denyer tel: (01273) 681718.

HOFFGAARD - Archie. See Beaman.

HODGKINSON - Colin "Boppy" suddenly on Friday 13th September near his home in France. Dearly loved and greatly missed by his wife Georgina, sister Julian and Cleo his daughters by his beloved late wife June. The funeral has already taken place but donations in his memory if desired to the British Limbless Ex Servicemens Association, 186-187 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 6NA.

HORNER - On September 19th 1996, in hospital, Peter Jeremy Robb, aged 62 years. All enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, Funeral Directors, 49 Marloes Road, Kensington, London W8 6LA, (0171) 937-0757.

HUGHES - Edna Frances (Teddie), on Sunday 15th September. Funeral at Chichester Crematorium, Tuesday 24th September at 11 am. No flowers. Donations to Relief Fund for Romania (The Russell Project) c/o Linfott & Son, North Street, Midhurst, GU29 9DG.

HURST - On 18th September 1996. Peacefully in hospital Richard Threlfall Hurst O.B.E., dearly loved husband of Barbara, beloved father and grandfather. Wednesday September 25th Requiem Mass to celebrate Dickie's life at St Thomas of Canterbury R.C. Church, Eastbourne Grove, Bolton at 11 am prior to committal service at Overdale Crematorium West Chapel at noon. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the ArthritiS and Rheumatism Council or the Stroke Foundation to Howarth's Funeral Service, 638 Blackburn Road, Bolton, BL1 7AL, tel: (01204) 309609.

HUTCHINSON - Gwen, aged 75, beloved wife of Victor, mother of Christine and Jane, mother-in-law of David and Simon and sister of Derek, died peacefully, after a long illness, at Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford, on Tuesday 17th September. No flowers please but donations in his memory if desired to Dr. Clare Topham's Cancer Research Fund, St Luke's Hospital, Warren Road, Guildford, Surrey.

JEFFERYS - Patrick Peel (Paddy) late of the Irish Guards, peacefully on September 18th 1996, at Yeovil District Hospital. Much loved husband of Hazel. Private cremation. All enquiries to Eason Funeral Services (01935) 813479.

JOHNSTON - Bill, on September 17th, beloved husband of Judith and deeply loved father of Sally, Lucy and William, peacefully at Addenbrookes Hospital. Private cremation. Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, Waisham-le-Willows, on Tuesday 24th September at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to C.I.O Patient Comfort Fund, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

KALISHER - Michael David Lionel, Q.C., peacefully at Trinity Hospice, Clapham, on 19th September. Beloved husband of Helen and father of Justine, Natasha and Jason. Mourned and missed by family, friends and colleagues. Funeral private. Donations to Trinity Hospice. Memorial Service to be announced.

MALLENDER - On Wednesday 18th September 1996, Miles aged 48 years, peacefully in London after a short illness. Much loved and missed by family and girlfriend Jenny. Funeral arrangements to be announced. No flowers please, but donations may be sent to St Christopher's Hospice, 51-59 Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham, London SE26 6DZ.

PAUL - Doctor Henry (Ahlswalla). Passed away at Jersey General Hospital on Tuesday 17th September 1996. Beloved husband of Jennifer, much loved father of Peter and Sue and father-in-law of Vicky. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Donations in his memory may be sent to The Children of Chernobyl c/o Clifton House, 24 Vauxhall Street, St Helier, Jersey. All enquiries please to E.W. Maillard & Son Ltd, Funeral Directors, tel: 01534 37291.

PERKINS - Bernard aged 68 years. Former Leader of Lambeth Council and Chairman of Harlow Development Corporation, died peacefully on 17th September. A service will take place at West Norwood Crematorium on 27th September at 1 pm. Flowers and enquiries c/o Teatman & Sons, Funeral Directors, tel: (0181) 670-1127.

PHILIPPS - On September 19th 1996 at Poole Hospital, Edith Louise (Toni) widow of Eric Thomas, beloved mother of Joan, Bob and Laurie, dear grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully aged 93 years. R.I.P. Requiem Mass at Church of Our Lady Immaculate, Seamoor Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Monday September 23rd at 11 am, followed by cremation at Poole Crematorium. Flowers to W. Smith & Sons Funeral Directors, 53 Poole Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth.

RADFORD - Ruth of Duffield, aged 83, died peacefully on September 17th at The Derby City General Hospital after an illness borne with exemplary courage. The much loved sister of Joseph, Phillip and Constance (Cope). Funeral Service at Duffield Cemetery Chapel on Tuesday September 24th at 2 pm prior to interment. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the League of Friends Derby City General Hospital may be sent to Joseph Allen & Sons, 17 Field Lane, Belper, Derbyshire.

SINCLAIR SCOTT - Suddenly as the result of an accident, on 13th September 1996, Beatrice Margaret Elizabeth Wright, of Castle Semple, Lochwinnoch, wife of David Sinclair Scott, mother of Carola, Alexandra, Christopher and Vanessa. Funeral private. No flowers or letters please, although donations may be sent to Riding for the Disabled, Winston Group, c/o Penny Buchanan, Westwood, Newmill Road, Dunlop, Ayrshire KA3 4BA.

ROBBINS - On Tuesday September 17th peacefully in his 88th year at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Charles John Robbins, Squadron Leader R.A.F. (Ret'd) M.S.E. A dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at the Parish Church of St Peter, Brooke, Norwich, on Tuesday September 24th at 1.30 pm followed by cremation at City of Norwich (Earlham) Crematorium at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund may be sent to Reg Copping & Partners, Funeral Service, Chapel Lane, Shotesham, Norwich NR15 1YF. Tel: (01508) 550250.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DAVSON - A Memorial Evening of music and readings from Shakespeare will be held on Tuesday, 1st October, 1996 at 7.30 pm in the Governor's Hall of St. Thomas' Hospital, London to commemorate the life and work of Professor Hugh Davson, D.Sc. All friends and associates are welcome, tickets from Dr. M. Segal 0171 928 9292 ext. 2531.

PERKINS - A Memorial Service for AEneas John Martin Perkins, Lt. Col. R.E. (ret'd), will be held at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Seal, near Sevenoaks, on Saturday 9th November at 2.30 pm.

SHARPE - A Memorial Service for the late Mark Edward Vernon Sharpe will be held at 3 pm on Saturday 5th October at the Church of St Mary, Northchurch, near Berkhamsted, Herts.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

H.M.S. PITTLETON - On this day 20/9/96, H.M.S. President remembers those lost in H.M.S. Pittleton 20/9/76.

PHILLIPS - Alfred 'Al'. My beloved husband on this your birthday and everyday, you live forever in my heart and the love that I have is yours. Val.

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OBITUARIES

CANON G. B. BENTLEY

Canon G. B. Bentley, moral theologian and Canon of St George's Chapel, Windsor, 1957-82, died on September 12 aged 87. He was born on July 16, 1909.



In any community where more than two or three clerics are gathered together there is liable to be at least one difficult character. The Royal Peculiar of St George's Chapel, Windsor, has seldom proved an exception to that rule.

Many years ago Dean Albert Baillie wrote of his problems with Canon John Dalton: "The Dean had to suffer most of Dalton's contempt because the Dean's was the primary influence which stood in the way of his authority ... It was an absolute irritation to him even to *think* that there were other people who had an equal right with him to a voice in the Chapter." The four successive Deans of Windsor who served with Canon Bentley may well have felt some sense of rapport with Baillie's words.

Unlike Dalton, Bentley was not an aggressive or unkind man. Indeed, he was of distinctly benign, if somewhat academic, appearance. Yet he was never inclined to small talk — so much so that those who lived in and around Windsor Castle found him resistant to proffering so much as a passing "Good morning". Bentley seldom spoke unless orating, delivering a sermon, or arguing his point with unexpected good humour in private conversation. He was a man of contrasts, stern and unbending on administrative issues, yet surprisingly outspoken on certain moral ones.

He helped to produce the report for the 1958 Lambeth Conference entitled *The Family in Contemporary Society*, and in 1964 he was one of 13 members of Archbishop Michael Ramsey's Group on Reform of Divorce Law. Bentley was the victim of tabloid interest when he published his book *God and Venus*, for the Mothers' Union. In it he voiced the opinion that the Church should not try to remonstrate with teenagers engaged in premarital sex.

He wrote: "It is probably healthier to think of sex as fun than to treat it as sacred." Departing from his high classical stance, he continued: "If they think we are saying that sleeping alone is intrinsically preferable to a piece of crumpet or that virginity is in itself superior to the process of losing it, they will merely conclude that our heads need examining."

The Archbishop of Canterbury's report, *Putting Asunder* (1966), owed much to his contribution. The report influenced the Government to adopt the idea of irretrievable breakdown of marriage as the main reason for divorce in place of the previous concept of matrimonial offence. This was achieved in close discussion with lawyers, Bentley steering a delicate balance between practicality and the need to stress marriage as a lifelong commitment.

Geoffrey Bryan Bentley was the son of Dr Henry Bentley of Bridgend, Glamorgan. He won an open scholarship to Uppingham, was a school praepostor and progressed by a further scholarship to King's College, Cambridge. There he gained a first in both the Classical and Theological Tripos, winning the Carus Greek Testament prize. He trained for the ministry at Cuddesdon, being ordained in 1933.

He started out in the Portsmouth diocese, serving as assistant curate at St Cuthbert's, Copnor, from 1933 to 1935. He then became a priest vicar (or minor canon) at Lincoln for 14 years, combining his cathedral duties with being a lecturer at the Bishop's Hostel theological college. He was a Proctor in Convocation from 1945 to 1955 and chaplain of Lincoln County Hospital from 1938 to 1952. Subsequently, from 1952 to 1957, he served as rector of the remote Devonshire parish of Milton Abbot with Dunterton.

In 1957 he was appointed a Canon of Windsor under Dean Hamilton ("the lovely Eric," as he was known in his prewar days at St Paul's, Knightsbridge). Bentley served as precentor from 1958 to 1969, again from 1970 to 1973 and for the last time in 1977. In various interregna between Deans it fell to him to be president of what is techically still known as the College of St George, and he was steward in 1969 and again from 1975 to 1976.

During the years when Robin Woods was Dean, and a particularly energetic one, Canon Bentley found himself fighting something of a rearguard action against a man he publicly described as "a turbulent priest". He relied heavily on his reading of the statutes of the College of St George to resist innovative ideas. He was far from keen on the creation of St George's House, although on the day of its opening by the Queen, in October 1966, he delivered a particularly positive introductory address, which was received in the college as a welcome *volte face*.

During his years at Windsor he was often a distant figure, dwelling more on important theological issues than on the routine affairs of the Chapter. He was overshadowed by the more outgoing Deans, Robin Woods, Launcelot Fleming and Michael Mann, whose approach to religion appealed to the Duke of Edinburgh in a way that Bentley's did not.

His considerable letter-writing to *The Times* on theological matters tended to be of a high intellectual level. As well as objecting to clergy being Freemasons, he concerned himself as early as 1968 with then purely academic questions such as that of women taking Holy Orders.

During his years at St George's, it fell to him to receive two Princesses at Garter ceremonies and he came to feel this to be a bad omen, since George V's sister, the Princess Royal, and Princess Marina of Kent both died soon afterwards. He was no great supporter of the Windsor Festival and objected to the spectacular fireworks display on the opening night in September 1969 when a live firework landed in his garden at 8 The Cloisters. The experiment was not repeated.

However, in contrast to these austere reactions, he took a great interest in a polo neck shirt sported by one of his friends, the then organist, Dr Sidney Campbell, in 1968. Thereafter he eschewed the traditional dog-collar in favour of a rather more comfortable white silk polo neck which he customarily wore under his cassock.

After his retirement he received rather short shrift from the Chapter. On retirement he succeeded in being appointed the only ever honorary Canon of St George's by the Queen, and he remained ensconced in a smaller house — No 5 — in the Cloisters. However, he was forever complaining that keys once in his possession were removed. In the years of his retirement he was a familiar figure at the Sung Eucharist every Sunday.

Canon Bentley's other appointments were as Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Exeter from 1952 to 1974, and Commissary to the Bishop of South West Tanganyika from 1952 to 1961. He was William Jones Golden Lecturer in 1965, and Scott Holland Lecturer in 1966. He published a number of theological works.

He married in 1938, Nina, daughter of George Williams, and they had two sons and two daughters. His family survives him.

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS WAHL

Nicholas Wahl, American political scientist, died of cancer in London on September 13 aged 68. He was born in New York on June 7, 1928.



RECOGNISED even in France itself as one of the keenest observers of French political life, Nicholas Wahl was a specialist on French political parties and institutions, especially those of the Fifth Republic, and on the political career of General Charles de Gaulle.

Starting in the early 1950s, while a doctoral student at Harvard University, Wahl began a series of interviews with the General which continued over many years. When de Gaulle returned to power in 1958, Nick Wahl became an unofficial adviser to the Government and particularly to Michel Debré, soon to become Prime Minister, who was assigned to draft the new constitution. Based on unparalleled access and inside knowledge, Wahl's first book, *The Fifth Republic: France's New Political System*, published in 1959 and reprinted in 1979, became an important reference for students of French politics.

In 1978, Wahl came to New York University from Princeton University, where he had taught for 14 years, to head the newly created Institute of French Studies. During his 18 years as director, he developed the institute into a leading centre for the study of France through the disciplines of history and the social sciences. It was the first and remains the only centre in the United States exclusively devoted to the interdisciplinary graduate study of contemporary France.

Because he enjoyed the friendship and respect of an extraordinary variety of scholars, intellectuals and political figures in France, he succeeded in making the Institute of French Studies into a unique centre in the United States of French-American intellectual exchange. It became the obligatory stopping-off place for visiting French figures from public, academic, journalistic, and business spheres. Among those who addressed audiences at the Institute were Debré, François Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Raymond Barre and Michel Rocard.

The Institute of French Studies maintains close links with both the Institut d'Etudes Politiques and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, through an active exchange of faculty and students. Wahl himself was a frequent visiting professor at both French institutions.

He also served as visiting professor at Nuffield College, Oxford, Columbia University, the University of Paris X-Nanterre, and the University of Saigon. At New York University he was Professor of French Civilisation and of History, and held the Milton Petrie Chair of European Studies. In addition, he helped to found the university's Centre of European Studies.

He worked tirelessly to promote French-American understanding outside the university. He was a founder and the first president of the French-American Foundation in New York and served on its board of directors until his death.

He was a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and was skilful in bringing together scholars and government officials to discuss European affairs. A frequent consultant to foundations, corporations and several French ministries, he was also an active member of the Institut Charles de Gaulle and a corresponding member of the Académie des Sciences morales et politiques of the Institut de France.

In recognition of his work, the French Government bestowed numerous decorations on him: he was named Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, Commander of the National Order of Merit, Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters, and Officer of the Palmes Académiques. His other awards include fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, Harvard University, the Fulbright Commission, and US government awards.

Though his closest French contacts were with the Gaullists, in American domestic politics Nick Wahl was a Democrat, and once ran unsuccessfully in the New York Democratic Congressional primaries. He served the Carter Administration as a consultant to the State Department and the National Security Council.

Nicholas Wahl, whose first marriage ended in divorce, enjoyed a second marriage which brought him great happiness. He is survived by his second wife, the British-born painter, Charlotte Johnson, and three stepsons and one stepdaughter.

TOMMY IVES

Tommy Ives, former Labour Party agent, died on September 12 aged 73. He was born on May 25, 1923.

TOMMY IVES was one of the most colourful behind-the-scenes fixers in the postwar Labour Party. He was at one time regarded as a possible general secretary but, as it was, he had to find the fulfilment of his ambitions in forwarding the political interests of the Silkin family.

He played a material part in helping two sons of Lord (Lewis) Silkin become Labour MPs for constituencies in south London. From the party's point of view this was a worthwhile investment: the older brother, Sam, became Attorney-General and the younger one, John, Chief Whip and Minister of Agriculture.

Yet Ives's own career had had a stormy start. While still a young man he was one of the central characters in what became known as the Popkess Affair. This was the name given to a bitter feud that developed in the late 1950s between the ruling Labour group on the Nottingham City Council and the City's Chief Constable, Captain Athelstan Popkess. When the dust settled, both Popkess and Ives were more or less discreetly removed from the scene.

Ives was a notable fixer in Labour affairs, reputedly always able to arrange a safe seat for a candidate of his liking. He was well-versed in the task of organising, if not manipulating, the cumbersome system of nominations by local ward parties and trade union branches needed to get a candidate on to the shortlist.

He had no parliamentary ambitions himself, serving as a Labour councillor not only in Nottingham but also in the Royal Borough of Kensington. He was Labour agent in a famous election in North Kensington in 1959 — the same year as the municipal imbroglio in the East Midlands reached its climax — when Sir Oswald Mosley stood for the last time as a parliamentary candidate.

Tommy Ives also became an important figure in the housing association movement, for many years in close association with the Silkin family. It was Lord Silkin and Tommy Ives who between them saved from the speculators Vincent House, Notting Hill, a residential hostel-cum-club for professional people from the provinces and abroad who found themselves required to stay for substantial periods in London. In the early 1960s Ives negotiated a £200,000 mortgage at a fixed rate of 7.5 per cent for 25 years from the London County Council to turn Vincent House into a housing association.

Thomas William Ives was born in Liverpool, the eldest of a family of four. Both his parents died young, and he and his siblings were brought up by an aunt. He left elementary school at 14 and worked in various factory jobs until 1943 when he was conscripted as a Bevin Boy to work in the mines. In 1945, following a mining accident, he was directed by the Minister of Labour to London as a building labourer on bombed sites.

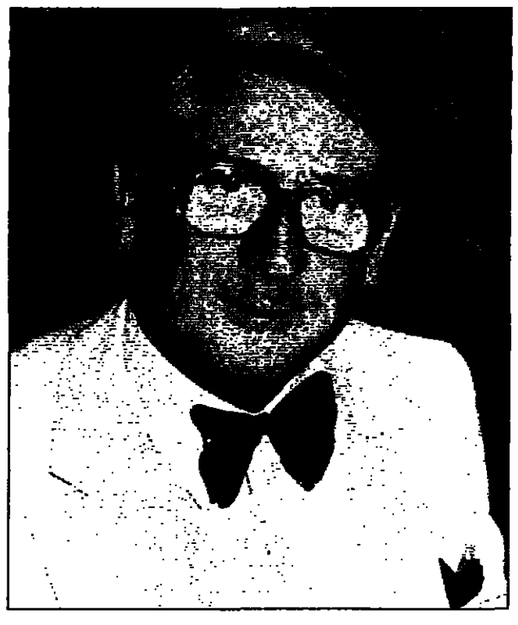
Ives was the full-time Labour Party agent in Nottingham at a time when political parties could still afford such a luxury, and he also served as secretary to the Labour group on the council. Captain Popkess was a South African, said to keep a rhino whip, or sambok, on the wall of his office. Bad blood developed between himself and the local Labour leaders when they began to suspect that his constables were pointedly following councillors on occasions when official hospitality had been dispensed at city hall functions.

Popkess set in train an investigation into rumours that Labour councillors were overcharging on claims for loss of earnings and that work had been done on the home of an alderman by the City Engineer's department. And he called in Scotland Yard when a delegation of three councillors, including himself, returned from a visit to East Germany. Perhaps vulnerably, they were clutching cameras they had been given as presents after inspecting the Zeiss works with a view to buying a planetarium for Nottingham.

No charges were ever brought, and the city's watch committee took the unprecedented step of suspending the chief constable *sine die*. After five weeks, the Home Secretary, R. A. Butler, felt constrained to step in, but he refused to withdraw the City's police grant or order the reinstatement of the Chief Constable, merely emphasising to a delegation of councillors that "time was a factor". Defending the action of the watch committee, Ives accused Popkess of "a strong presumption of malice" and "abusive use" of police powers.

The voters expressed their own exasperation over the affair in the municipal elections of 1959 when Labour almost lost its overall majority. Ives left Nottingham soon afterwards, following the retirement of Popkess. His lasting monument in the city, however, is the Nottingham Playhouse which he and Sir Hugh Willatt, later secretary of the Arts Council, first conceived, and for which Ives secured funding from the rates.

That Ives's name could still be put in contention, despite the Popkess Affair, for the general secretaryship of the Labour Party when Morgan Phillips retired from the post in 1961, was almost entirely thanks to his shrewd management of the general election contest for the Kensington North seat in 1959. Ives was agent for the sitting MP, George Rogers, who faced a strong Conservative challenge. But the contest was distorted by the Union Movement candidacy of Mosley, who, in one of the first areas to experience the influx of immigrants from the Caribbean, confidently expected that he would win. In the event, he managed to secure a mere deposit-losing 8.1 per cent of the vote. Rogers scraped home with a majority of 877.



Ives overcame the objections of local councillors in the heyday of a virtual municipal monopoly of public housing to found housing associations at Caerphilly in South Wales, at Tilbury, and in London, where his Central and Provincial Housing Trust established itself as one of the leaders of the housing association movement.

A small, energetic and highly convivial man, Tommy Ives never lost his Liverpudlian accent, nor his instinctive touch for politics, and kept an enormous network of friends in good repair.

He was twice married, with two daughters by his first marriage to Patricia Smith, and one by his second to Sylvia Bailey. To his delight his daughter Sara recently succeeded him as secretary to the Vincent House Association.

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CHANNEL BRIDGE PROJECT

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, Sept. 19

M. Jules Moch, whose enthusiasm for the channel bridge project is infectious, stated tonight that he will soon be in London to open discussions with interested members of the British Government and the directors of a British group which had recently been formed, he said, to support the scheme. He named the firm of Dorman Long as one of the principal British advocates of a channel bridge, and said that a powerful group in Parliament was now leaning towards the idea.

In elaborating the plans of his study group, M. Moch, surrounded by charts and models, described the projected bridge as the backbone not only of the old Entente Cordiale but also of a future economic community of unequalled power — what soon would be "the Europe of the Seven."

Speaking to newspaper correspondents of his conversion to the scheme he recalled that during his term as Minister of Public Works three bridges a day were being reconstructed in France after the demolitions of the last war; as the principal French delegate at disarmament discussions of recent years he felt that there could be few greater works of peace than a bridge over the Channel. M. Moch noted that the exchange of persons between France and Britain was far less in proportion than the exchanges with Belgium and other neighbouring countries: a direct link between the two countries was now more necessary than ever. He added little to details of the scheme already given but marshalled many of his arguments against the Channel tunnel project which he called "*le tunnel de Grandpapa*".

As he saw it, there were three alternatives: a tunnel, a tube resting on the sea bed, or a bridge, and each had three possibilities — road, railway or both. Six of these combinations, he said, could be eliminated at once because of the great difficulties of ventilation (calling for equipment of 80,000 horse-power), claustrophobia, and risks of accidents and panic.

The tunnel project made no provision for heavy freight lorries; and would be a railway monopoly — possibly for this reason rail interests in France were backing the scheme, he said. He felt a multi-purpose bridge was the only modern solution. French maritime interests which had been consulted largely agreed that the 164 piles on which the contemplated bridge would rest could serve usefully to regulate shipping in the Channel, now plying at a rate of 1,000 vessels a day.

In fog, traffic would move more readily on the well-lighted bridge than on routes of access; if it could not move on the latter the bridge admittedly would be out of action but such conditions would apply equally to a tunnel.

Under the present scheme the estimated N.F.3,000m. (£210m.) needed for the bridge would be privately raised on the international money market and investors could count on dividends of from 4 per cent to 8 per cent. in the early years of its operation.

He envisaged a labour force of 4,000 working at either end

ON THIS DAY

September 20, 1961

That M Moch, French maritime interests and Dorman Long advocated a Channel bridge must have rendered it a feasible project. A layman might find it difficult to conjure up the prospect of Channel traffic navigating through 164 piles.

THE TIMES TODAY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1996

NEWS

Runaway bishop has son of 15

■ The Roman Catholic Church faced renewed controversy with the revelation that its runaway bishop, the Right Rev Roderick Wright, has a 15-year-old son.

The boy, Kevin, was born after Bishop Wright had an affair with Joanne Whibley, now living in Polegate, East Sussex. The Bishop, then a priest, met Miss Whibley when he was instructing her in the Roman Catholic faith after she became engaged to a Catholic.....**Page 1**

Maxwell trial halted by judge

■ The Government will face renewed pressure to review trial by jury in complex fraud cases after a judge halted the second Maxwell trial. Kevin Maxwell walked free after Mr Justice Buckley blocked a second trial on charges relating to the collapse of his father's media empire.....**Pages 1, 2, 3**

Tories at war

The Tory party is again caught up in a ferocious war over Europe after its leading Euro-sceptics turned on the grandees who warned John Major that he must keep open the option of joining a single currency.....**Pages 1, 10**

More crime

Crime in England and Wales has risen by about 2 per cent, seriously damaging the Government's claim to be turning the tide on law and order .....**Page 2**

Tuition fees threat

Six universities are poised to introduce tuition fees next autumn if the Government does not reverse cuts in higher education in November's Budget, said vice-chancellors .....**Page 3**

Prince's warning

The Prince of Wales said that intensive agriculture could be undermining health. The hidden costs would burden future generations and deficiencies in intensively produced food might rob people of intelligence.....**Page 5**

Lucan 'is dead'

A self-confessed thief who claims to be a former friend of Lord Lucan told a jury that the missing peer was dead.....**Page 5**

Artistic divide

The precise year in which modern art began has been pinpointed by the Tate and National galleries: 1900 is the divide .....**Page 6**

Pill crisis

Women in their late twenties are abandoning the contraceptive pill apparently because of fears about side-effects.....**Page 7**

'Animals' jailed

Three black teenagers left a young man in a coma after stamping on his head while chanting "white bastard". A judge jailed them for a total of almost 35 years and told them that they had behaved "like a pack of wild animals".....**Page 11**

South Korean anger

South Korea denounced a bungled infiltration attempt as its troops shot dead seven North Koreans on the second day of a manhunt.....**Page 12**

Calamity Dole

Bob Dole sought solace in Las Vegas after a calamitous foray into California to protest against the moral laxity of Hollywood and President Clinton.....**Page 13**

Pope in France

The Pope arrived in France for a four-day visit that will test his failing health and the faith of a country which disapproves of his stance on contraception, abortion and homosexuality.....**Page 14**

Kurdish plea

The Kurdish leader who asked President Saddam Hussein for help to defeat a rival Kurdish is now seeking protection from the Gulf War allies .....**Page 15**

Lipstick on the chain-gang

■ For her first day on America's first female chain-gang, Princess Richardson bought a tube of deep red lipstick at the prison and wrote a martial-sounding cadence for her fellow inmates. Shackled to each other with hardened steel, 15 women from Estrella jail in Phoenix, Arizona, shuffled off a bus onto the scorching streets to pick up litter .....**Page 15**

UK/ALLSPORT



European Solheim Cup women golfers watch the Red Arrows fly over Chepstow before their tournament with the US. Page 44

BUSINESS

Pensions: The Office of Fair Trading has launched an inquiry into the £5 billion industry in an attempt to restore consumer confidence following the mis-selling scandals.....**Page 23**

Bank chief: Lloyds TSB is expected to announce the appointment of Peter Ellwood as new chief executive with Sir Brian Pitman becoming chairman.....**Page 23**

Copper losses: Sumitomo has revealed that losses on rogue copper deals total £1.7 billion, nearly 50 per cent higher than previously expected .....**Page 23**

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 18.6 to 3974.3. The pound was 0.3 down at 85.9 after falling from $1.5608 to $1.5510 and from DM2.3545 to DM2.3481 .....**Page 26**

SPORT

Cricket: Leicestershire dismissed Middlesex for 190 to claim maximum bowling points and steal a march over their rivals for the county championship .....**Page 44**

Football: Manchester City are still without a manager after Dave Bassett had a last-minute change of heart and decided to stay with Crystal Palace.....**Page 44**

Golf: Home advantage may be sufficient to tip the Solheim Cup Europe's way against the United States at St Pierre, Chepstow, over the next three days.....**Page 44**

Racing: Brave Montgomerie became the first Scottish-trained winner for 12 years at Ayr's Western meeting and raised hopes of a home victory in the Ladbroke (Ayr) Gold Cup.....**Page 39**

ARTS

Pop pigs: After a gruesome start to their career, the Longpigs at last have a single out on Monday, an album recorded, and everything to play for .....**Page 32**

Midsummer dream ticket: Orchestral beauty lifts the ENO's bedroom-farce staging of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* — and at half the price of Covent Garden .....**Page 33**

Drama queens: Balzac's tender story of misplaced love comes to the stage in Neil Bartlett's exotic fantasy version, *Sarrasine*.....**Page 33**

Elgar orgy: How the conductor Richard Hickox is preparing for a long weekend of high drama at the Barbican in London with the three great oratorios of Edward Elgar.....**Page 34**

FEATURES

Waxing cynical: The indomitable Ruby Wax attends a Versace show and shares her thoughts on supermodels, fashion photographers and Mickey Rourke.....**Page 16**

New Labour, new patron: Bob Gavron is engagingly quirky, extremely wealthy and despite a soft spot for Mrs Thatcher, has donated £500,000 to the party led by Tony Blair, a man he "likes and trusts" .....**Page 17**

Loving a priest: Clelia Luro married Argentinian Roman Catholic bishop Jerónimo Podestá and has now told the story of the early days of their love .....**Page 17**

EDUCATION

Second-class system: Should the traditional university degree classifications be modernised to reflect, more accurately, graduates' achievements and the lack of them? .....**Page 35**

Exam blues: Modular A levels are devaluing the education system, argues Susan Elkin.....**Page 36**

THE PAPERS

The constant French fear with regard to a "German Europe" — in economic as well as political matters — is not completely unjustified. In the current negotiations, is France assured that the European economy will not be stifled by the German obsession with stability?

— Le Monde



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ HOMES
Why people who want relaxing weekends are buying their country cottages brand new

■ BOOKS
Peter Riddell on a slim volume of fat theories: *The Nigel Lawson Diet Book*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: America's latest sit-com stars Lea Thompson as a cartoonist more successful at work than play, *Caroline in the City* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss enjoys Ian Hislop's C of E.....**Page 47**

OPINION

Serious farce

The sorry saga of the last decade — from the Guinness convictions to the Maxwell acquittals — suggests that the criminal law has been brought into areas that would be dealt with better by either civil law or direct regulation, or, in some sectors, left alone .....**Page 19**

Mission improbable

Patience, persistence, vigilance and a strong military preparedness are the only way of dealing with North Korea .....**Page 19**

Wine and Roses

A vigorous campaign from the authorities to hymn the prophylactic virtues of Bordeaux and Bournville is the least we might expect. A Praline and a pichet a day should keep the doctor away.....**Page 19**

COLUMNS

ROBERT SKIDELSKY

No one denies that private schools compete for the custom of parents. No one denies that standards in most independent schools are higher than in most state schools — without any "top-down" planning. So why can't we think of this unplanned, unmeritocratic system as the model for our national education — with all schools in the private sector and competing for custom on the basis of quality and price?.....**Page 18**

BERNARD LEVIN

The United States is perhaps the most inward-looking country in the world, and only one in a hundred American citizens has ever heard of Hong Kong, but when they do, their generosity will make up for their ignorance.....**Page 18**

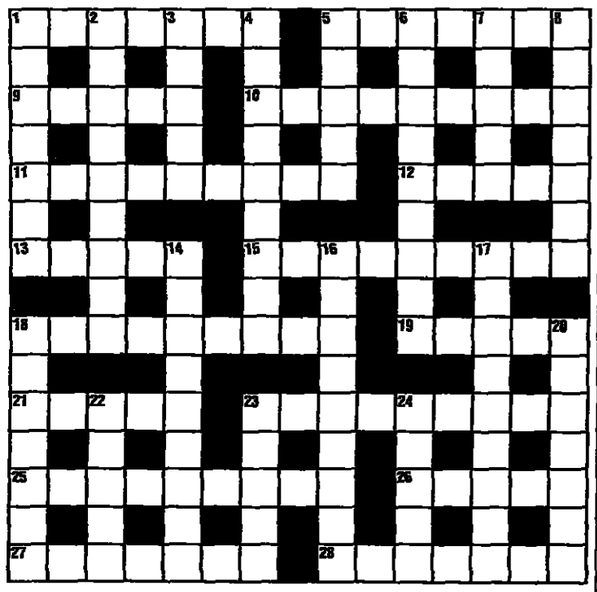
OBITUARIES

Canon G.B. Bentley, moral theologian; **Professor Nicholas Wahl**, political scientist; **Tommy Ives**, Labour Party agent.....**Page 21**

LETTERS

Churchill's vision of Europe; chapel heritage; future of Naval College; plutonium trade; law on 'stalking'; Prince at Cambridge; church music .....**Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,278



ACROSS

1 In this connection, predator catches somnolent animals (7).
5 Medicine pulled us together, they say (7).
9 Shoot, for instance, twisted and filthy material (5).
10 Groom almost about to pass it back, that's clear (9).
11 Watching Batman's first outside broadcast (9).
12 Old hands are familiar with these notes about work (5).
13 Fine leaders of men usually lead competent troops (5).
15 The piano I played is African (9).
18 Gas pressure is regulated by this base and lowly conglomerate (6,3).
19 Northern British taxes (5).
21 Almost extinct residue of honour, being introduced to sovereign (5).
23 Nuts turn round (9).
25 Advertisement with appeal unknown in subsequent generations (9).
26 Approach shot in golf (5).
27 Estate needs me working for it (7).
28 Socially acceptable state assistance restricted? That's awkward (7).

DOWN

1 Comfortable seating's essential in the continental coach (7).
2 Shy – as we expect uncle to be (4,5).
3 Lead the way at all times (5).
4 Nothing about leg cut is ideal (9).
5 Straight run (5).
6 Infamous rejection of Brazilian city by American (9).
7 Walk from a sort of car parking here (5).
8 Tramples relatively new family member (7).
14 What's produced by spectre he disturbed? (3,6).
16 Our "ahoy" we designed as a greeting (3,3,3).
17 Retaining nothing in one's old language, in exile (9).
18 Audibly summoned to run around gym (7).
20 Liberal is standing, extremely pale (7).
22 Close barrier across river, trapping salmon primarily (5).
23 Attendants become unreasonable in the end (5).
24 In Moscow I'd thought one could find liberality of mind (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,277

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Times Two Crossword page 44

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Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
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Shrops Heralds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
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N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
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Grampian & E Highlands	724
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N Ireland	727

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North-west England	742
North-east England	743
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Northern Ireland	745

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
6.44 am	7.03 pm
Moon sets	**Moon rises**
11.40 pm	2.37 pm

First quarter today
London 7.03 pm to 6.45 am
Bristol 7.13 pm to 6.55 am
Edinburgh 7.17 pm to 6.56 am
Manchester 7.12 pm to 6.53 am
Penzance 7.24 pm to 7.07 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be rather cloudy in all areas but with brighter intervals and sunshine in more sheltered northern and western parts. In the south, thicker cloud is likely with rain, initially coastal, edging north to the Thames by evening.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, there will be some mistiness in the north-east and islands. The east will be rather cloudy and showers may push through the Forth Clyde valley at times. In the west it will be bright with some sunshine and for the most part it will be dry.

☐ **London, S E England, Central S England, Channel Isles, S W England:** rather cloudy, rain spreading north. Winds light, easterly. Cold. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, N E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rather cloudy, isolated showers, misty in places. Winds fresh or strong, east or northeast. Cold. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England:** rather cloudy, mainly dry, sunshine at times. Winds moderate or fresh, easterly. Cool. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **S W Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N W Scotland, N Ireland:** mainly dry with bright or sunny intervals. Winds moderate, east or northeast Mild. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday:** unsettled, rain or showers in south and east. Brighter in the west.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thundor

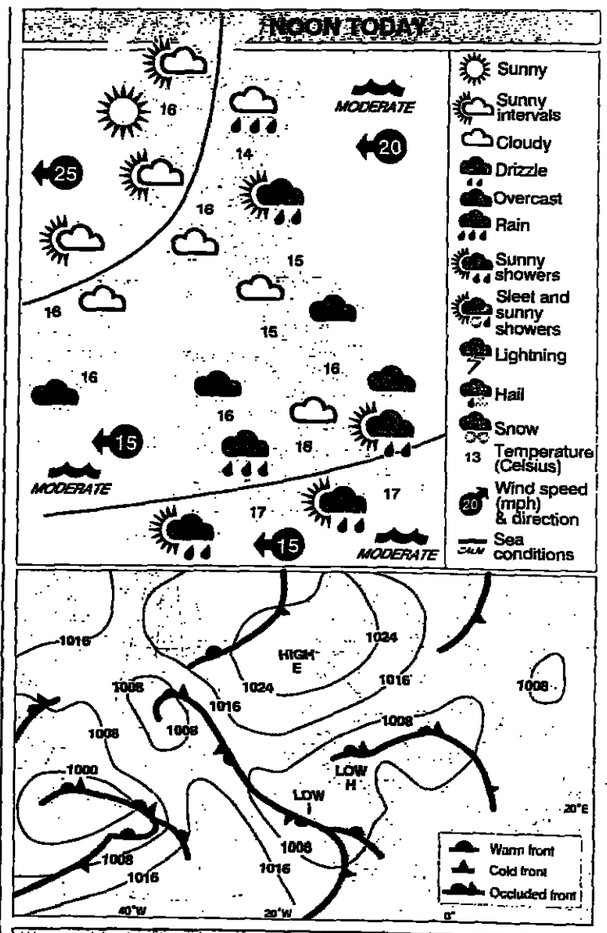
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	9.3	-	16	61	s	Littlehmpton	7.9	-	17	63	s
Aviemore	11.1	-	18	64	s	London	2.0	0.01	16	61	c
Belfast	6.9	-	17	63	s	Manchester	5.2	-	17	63	b
Bognor R	8.8	-	18	64	s	Margate	6.5	-	16	61	s
Bournem'th	9.3	-	18	64	s	Minehead	5.1	-	16	61	s
Bristol	9.1	-	16	61	s	Morecambe	5.6	-	17	63	b
Buxton	5.0	0.01	13	55	b	Newcastle	5.5	0.01	15	59	sh
Cardiff	8.3	-	17	63	s	Norwich	2.6	-	15	59	c
Clacton	3.1	-	14	57	c	Poole	8.0	-	18	64	s
Cromer	5.3	-	15	59	b	Prestatyn	X	-	18	64	b
Dunbar	8.7	-	16	61	s	Ross-o-wye	6.3	-	17	63	s
Eastbourne	8.6	-	15	59	s	Ryde	8.9	-	16	61	s
Edinburgh	6.4	-	18	64	b	Scarboro'	1.1	-	14	57	c
Eskdalemuir	4.3	0.01	15	59	d	Shrewsbury	8.6	-	18	61	b
Folkestone	9.9	-	15	59	b	Southsea	7.6	-	17	63	s
Glasgow	9.4	-	18	64	s	Stornoway	9.5	-	17	63	s
Guernsey	10.7	-	18	64	s	Swanage	7.5	-	16	61	s
Herne Bay	6.3	0.01	15	59	b	Tiree	7.7	-	17	63	s
Hove	6.9	-	17	63	s	Tynemouth	-	0.01	14	57	sh
Hunstanton	7.0	-	15	59	s						
Isle of Man	7.2	-	17	63	s						
Jersey	11.2	-	17	63	s						
Kinloss	10.5	-	18	64	s						
Leeds	2.9	0.01	16	61	c						
Lerwick	11.0	-	14	57	s						
Leuchars	7.8	-	18	61	s						

ABROAD

Ajaccio	19	66	r	C'phagn	13	55	f	Melb'rne	20	68	f
Akrotiri	26	79	s	Dublin	16	59	s	Mexico C	22	72	s
Alex'dria	32	90	s	Faro	24	75	f	Miami	33	91	s
Algiers	27	81	s	Florence	23	73	f	Milan	19	66	c
Amst'dm	13	55	f	Frankfurt	13	55	c	Montreal	22	72	s
Athens	26	79	s	Funchal	X	X	X	Moscow	10	50	c
B Aires	18	64	f	Geneva	15	59	c	Munich	9	48	c
Bahrain	36	97	s	Gibraltar	19	66	d	N Delhi	31	88	f
Bangkok	31	88	f	Helsinki	16	61	s	N York	18	64	f
Barbados	28	82	f	Hong K	29	84	c	Nairobi	24	75	f
Barcelona	22	72	f	Innsbrck	14	57	f	Naples	17	63	f
Beirut	28	82	s	Istanbul	23	73	f	Nice	23	73	f
Belgrade	18	64	f	Jeddah	37	99	s	Oslo	17	63	s
Berlin	14	57	f	Jo'burg	11	52	s	Paris	16	61	s
Bermuda	28	82	f	L Angels	22	72	f	Peking	25	77	f
Biarritz	15	59	r	L Palmas	27	81	s	Perth	18	64	f
Borde'x	21	70	f	Le Touet	14	57	f	Prague	11	52	c
Brussels	13	55	c	Lisbon	21	70	c	Reykjavik	13	55	f
Budapst	15	59	f	Locarno	12	54	r	Rhodes	25	77	s
Cairo	34	93	s	Luxembg	12	54	c	Rio de J	18	64	f
Cape Tn	16	61	f	Luxor	37	99	s	Riyadh	37	99	s
Ch'church	21	70	X	Madrid	20	68	b	Rome	17	63	f
Chicago	21	70	c	Majorca	24	75	s	S Fr'sco	22	72	s
Cologne	13	55	c	Malaga	25	77	f	S Paulo	16	61	c
Corfu	23	73	f	Malta	19	66	s	Salzburg	11	52	c
Santiago	18	64	f
Seoul	27	81	f
Sing'por	28	82	r
St'kholm	15	59	s
Strasb'rg	16	61	s
Sydney	20	68	s
Tangier	20	68	f
Tel Aviv	28	82	f
Tenerife	29	84	s
Tokyo	26	79	f
Toronto	22	72	s
Tunis	28	82	f
Valencia	23	73	f
Vanc'ver	13	55	f
Venice	15	59	f
Vienna	11	52	c
Warsaw	10	50	c
Wash'ton	21	70	f
Wel'rgton	15	59	X
Zurich	9	48	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday X = not available

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:25	6.5	5.41	6.4	Leith	6.24	5.1	6.50	5.0
Aberdeen	5:07	3.9	5.36	3.7	Liverpool	2.37	8.5	3.02	8.4
Avonmouth	10:44	11.7	11.06	11.4	Lowestoft	0.52	2.4	1.20	2.4
Belfast	2.37	3.4	2.55	3.3	Margate	3.16	4.4	3.38	4.4
Cardiff	10.30	10.9	10.53	10.6	Milford Haven	9.47	6.1	10.09	5.9
Devonport	9.16	4.8	9.38	4.8	Newquay	8.44	6.0	9.12	5.9
Dover	2.05	6.3	2.32	6.2	Oban	9.10	3.4	9.32	3.3
Dublin (N Wall)	3.13	3.8	3.40	3.7	Penzance	8.02	5.0	8.34	4.8
Falmouth	8.25	4.7	8.54	4.6	Portland	9.57	1.7	10.18	1.6
Greenock	3.56	3.3	4.21	3.2	Portsmouth	2.40	4.3	3.00	4.3
Harwich	3.06	3.8	3.22	3.8	Shoreham	2.23	5.7	2.48	5.6
Holyhead	1.40	5.1	2.06	5.0	Southampton	2.04	4.3	2.27	4.2
Hull (Albert D)	9.54	6.8	10.18	6.8	Swansea	9.47	8.3	10.08	8.1
Ilfracombe	9.26	8.2	9.48	8.0	Tees	7.22	4.8	7.51	4.6
King's Lynn	10.03	5.3	10.29	6.0	Walton-on-Naze	3.09	4.0	3.27	3.9

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Aultbea, Highland, 19C (66F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Guernsey Airport, 0.59in; highest sunshine: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 11.4hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1995



RNLI RESCUE UPDATE – 20 SEPTEMBER 1996
Total number of lives saved so far this year: 499
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 2,684
Cost to RNLI per day: £173,000
Cost to taxpayer: £0
To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210
Lifeboats
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Reg. Charity No. 209603

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1996

Lloyds TSB expected to name Ellwood as chief



Ellwood: job cuts ahead

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

THE board of Lloyds TSB Group is expected to announce today that Peter Ellwood will be the new chief executive of the bank. Sir Brian Pitman, the current chief executive, will become chairman.

Mr Ellwood became deputy group chief executive and chief executive of retail financial services on December 28 last year, when Lloyds and TSB merged to become Britain's second-largest bank, with 3,000 branches.

When the merger was announced last October, Mr Ellwood, who is 53, was seen as the most likely successor to Sir Brian, who will be 65 in December. However, the delay in making the final decision had led City analysts to suggest that the succession might not be as smooth as first appeared a year ago. The other internal front runner was Alan Moore, 60, also a deputy group chief executive and treasurer, who has wider international banking experience than Mr Ellwood, having worked in the Middle East, and comes from a corporate and treasury background, rather than retail banking.

Sir Brian earned £627,362 last year, and, to attract an international banker from an investment bank, Lloyds TSB would have had to pay £1 million a year.

Mr Ellwood began his career with Barclays Bank in 1961 and ran Barclaycard, its credit card operation, in the eighties, at the height of its profitability and before a large number of imitators entered the market. He moved to TSB in 1989 to become chief executive.

Last year TSB had been thought ready to buy a building society, but Mr Ellwood decided that those in the market to be bought were too expensive. However, he was aware that the conversion of the Halifax Building Society to a bank next year and the takeover of National & Provincial by Abbey National would mean that TSB would no longer be in the top six banks.

The Lloyds/TSB merger propelled Lloyds up the banking league. Mr Ellwood will no doubt have noticed the career opportunity for himself.

In recent months, City insiders have suggested that Mr Ellwood's background lacked international experience, but, in a round of dinners with the 22 members of the board, he has impressed.

As chief executive of the larger group, he will have to oversee job cuts and branch closures. The bank has already announced the closure of 150 branches.

Sir Brian is the longest-serving chief executive of the Big Four banks, having taken the reins in 1983. He began his career with Lloyds Bank in Cheltenham in 1952 and crowned it last year with the takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, in August, and the announcement of the merger with TSB to form the second-largest bank after HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland.

Sir Robin Ibbs is retiring as chairman. He is 70, and his continuation in office would have required special approval by shareholders.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3974.3	(+18.6)
Yield	3.92%	
FT-SE A All share	1957.02	(+8.23)
Nikkei	21322.85	(+168.10)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5852.95	(-24.41)*
S&P Composite	680.57	(-0.90)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(4¾%)
Long Bond	96²⁄₃₂*	(96⁸⁄₃₂)
Yield	7.07%*	(7.02%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5⁵⁄₁₆%	(5⁵⁄₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	107¹₃	(107¹⁄₁₆)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5518*	(1.5606)
London:		
$	1.5508	(1.5605)
DM	2.3480	(2.3537)
FFr	7.9919	(8.0190)
SFr	1.9286	(1.9361)
Yen	169.47	(170.20)
£ Index	85.9	(86.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5147*	(1.5095)
FFr	5.1523*	(5.1410)
SFr	1.2435*	(1.2420)
Yen	109.37*	(109.20)
$ Index	97.0	(96.8)

Tokyo close Yen 109.36

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec) $21.45 ($21.75)

GOLD

London close $382.85 ($383.35)

* denotes midday trading price

OFT starts personal pensions inquiry

BY ADAM JONES

THE Office of Fair Trading has launched an inquiry into the £5 billion-a-year personal pensions industry in a bid to restore confidence after the mis-selling scandals.

The inquiry, which will report in the first half of next year, aims to draw a line under recent controversies, presenting a positive vision of how personal pensions can evolve in the next century. It will study all aspects of how pensions are bought, sold and regulated, targeting what the OFT refers to as "innate weaknesses" in the system. These include the failure to provide satisfactory arrangements for women and workers with "stop-start" careers, such as the self-employed.

The inquiry will be chaired by Geoffrey Horton, OFT's director of consumer affairs. He said: "People are having to become more responsible for the provision of their income in old age. There have been concerns in the recent past about aspects of the personal pensions market."

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said: "People are now more worried about living too long to provide a comfortable retirement, than they are about dying early. Our research will cover consumer experience and the structure and regulation of the industry to see what lessons can be learnt from the past."

An estimated 500,000 people were mis-sold pensions in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They were persuaded to leave efficient company schemes for personal pensions that would not provide a viable income in retirement.

A review of the scandal by the Personal Investment Authority has been ongoing for almost three years, attracting criticism for being slow to compensate investors. Total compensation could be as much as £4 billion.

Mr Horton admitted there were mis-selling issues still to be resolved but said the OFT involvement will not usurp the existing review. The OFT team will consult industry, consumer groups, academics and regulators, and invite input from the public. It is not yet clear whether the report and its recommendations will be aimed at the Government, business or consumer.

Bill Davey, project leader at the OFT, emphasised the importance of research and guidance. He said many people are extremely disorientated by the pension-buying process: "They either make the wrong purchase or, catastrophically, they are put off making any decision at all."

The market for personal pensions has grown enormously under the Conservatives' emphasis on personal responsibility for retirement planning. The Association of British Insurers said there were 18.7 million personal pension policies in force at the beginning of 1995 — the last period for which figures are available — bringing in £5.1 billion a year in premiums. This compares with 4.4 million policies in 1985.

An important element of the inquiry will be comparisons with practice in other countries, including Australia, Chile — where there is a thriving, flexible pension system — and The Netherlands.

Pennington, page 25

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Pizza the action: Luke Johnson, chairman of Pizza Express, with David Page, chief executive, and Hugh Osmond, director. The year-end pre-tax profits came out at £10.2 million (£6.64 million). A 2p final dividend, due on November 4, makes a 2.7p total (2.2p)

Sumitomo to sue Hamanaka over $2.6bn loss

BY ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO AND OLIVER AUGUST

SUMITOMO, the Japanese trading group, has revealed that losses from rogue copper deals have soared to $2.6 billion from the $1.8 billion originally estimated. The company also said it would pursue action against Yasuo Hamanaka, the man it holds responsible for the losses.

The group said it had found new uncovered copper positions when auditing dealings by Mr Hamanaka. Internal investigations had revealed that unauthorised transactions beginning in 1985 were allegedly hidden by Mr Hamanaka through deception and their "extraordinary complexity".

Sumitomo said: "Mr Hamanaka was able to avoid detection by the company over a long period of time by falsifying documents, forging signatures and destroying business records."

The group liquidated Mr Hamanaka's copper positions over the summer, which led to the huge losses. All open positions have now been closed and the company said it did not expect to see further losses. Sumitomo also announced it is to sue Mr Hamanaka, who was fired when the scandal first broke, for possible breaches of trust and forgery of documents.

A senior group official said: "We will file a lawsuit with the Tokyo District Prosecutors Office as quickly as possible."

A prosecution of Mr Hamanaka, who is currently living in suburban Tokyo, is seen as a highly unusual step in Japan. Large Japanese companies intensely dislike publicity and are usually reluctant to pursue errant employees through the courts. But the Sumitomo affair is perceived to be a scandal of astonishing magnitude.

Both Mr Hamanaka and Sumitomo are under criminal investigation in Britain and America but so far have not been charged.

Sumitomo said it expected to post $1.34 billion in group net losses for the fiscal year ending in March 1997. Previously, it had forecast profits of $220 million. Copper prices at the London Metal Exchange remained almost unchanged on the news.

Tory and Labour vows under fire

BOTH Conservative and Labour promises to cut taxes are incompatible with restoring the public finances to health without severe cuts in public spending, according to research by the Ernst & Young ITEM Club, commissioned by *Channel 4 News* (Janet Bush writes).

Paul Droop, the chief economist of ITEM, said: "Voters ought to treat promises of tax cuts from both parties with the highest degree of scepticism."

Beware politicians, page 27

Consumer demand boosts rate-rise call

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor's resistance to Bank of England demands for higher interest rates received another knock yesterday with more evidence of strong consumer demand for credit in August as well as a surge in M4 broad money supply above the Government's monitoring range.

Kenneth Clarke meets Eddie George, Bank of England Governor, on Monday to discuss interest rates in the knowledge that the Bank would like to see rates raised at least a quarter point to 6 per cent.

The Building Societies Association reported gross advances of mortgage money of £3.8 billion in August, down on £4.1 billion in July. Net advances rose to £1.35 billion from £1.23 billion in July.

Adrian Coles, BSA director-general, said: "Allowing for the fact that the National & Provincial left the sector in early August after its takeover, these latest lending figures represent further positive news for the housing market." He said that seasonally adjusted net advances were the strongest for four years, clear evidence that the housing market is returning to health.

Building societies also attracted a net inflow of £395 million from savers, up on £229 million in July.

Banks reported a similarly buoyant lending picture with a rise of £3.2 billion compared with July's increase of £2.7 billion. Within the total, consumer credit recorded another strong rise, although slightly down on July's rise, and mortgage lending remained buoyant.

Separate Bank of England figures showed M4 money supply jumping 0.9 per cent in August, taking its annual growth rate to 9.4 per cent.

Signet fails to agree jewellery firms deal

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SIGNET yesterday called off negotiations with Apax Partners, the venture capital firm that was offering £280 million for its H Samuel and Ernest Jones jewellery businesses.

The two sides failed to agree terms for the transfer of property leases. Under the deal offered by Apax, which was funding a buyout by the management of the two jewellery chains, Signet would have had to compensate Apax for each of the 600 leases it did not deliver.

It is understood that some landlords were unhappy about leases being transferred to a venture capital company. There was also concern within Signet about retaining contingent liability. It has become a major issue since Sears found itself with 370 shoe shops returned to it after Facia, the company that had bought them, collapsed.

John Morton, a partner at Apax, said that Signet's terms meant Apax would not be guaranteed to receive what it had paid for.

Goldsmiths, which is run by Jurek Piasecki, was involved in talks with Apax and Signet at an earlier stage, and remains interested in buying Signet's UK jewellery companies. Last night Mr Piasecki said he would be willing to buy Ernest Jones outright, and H Samuel as well in partnership with a backer.

Signet, formerly Ratners, is likely to come under pressure from its preference shareholders, who are owed around £135 million in unpaid dividends. Signet may look again for purchasers of the businesses, although with Ernest Samuel in particular showing healthy sales figures, it could be running the chains for some months to come.

Wm Morrison growth to create 3,200 jobs

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MORE THAN 3,200 full and part-time jobs are to be created in a £100 million expansion programme by Wm Morrison, the supermarket chain based at Bradford.

The company will open superstores at Sunderland, Northampton, Shefford, Northwich, Cheshire. It announced the move yesterday along with pre-tax profits for the half year of £55.2 million, 8 per cent up on last year.

Sales figures were disappointing. Like-for-like sales in the half year were up 3.5 per cent excluding petrol. Including petrol, they were up 1.9 per cent. In the first seven weeks of the second half, the increase slowed to just

increased from 0.275p per share to 0.325p, payable on November 4. In the half year to August 4 the company's turnover exceeded £1 billion for the first time, to reach £1.0928 billion, an increase of 9.3 per cent.

The new jobs will boost Wm Morrison's 27,000-strong workforce in its current 81 stores by 12 per cent. About 450 jobs will be created at each new

at Wm Morrison's distribution centre in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, will grow by 100 with the construction of a new frozen food depot.

Refurbishments, creating about 75 jobs each, will take place at Carlisle and Wellington in Cumbria, Beverley in North Yorkshire, Bishop Auckland in Durham, Newark in Nottinghamshire, Stamford in Lincolnshire,

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CBI urges action to strengthen manufacturing

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE manufacturing industry is still weak, according to new figures today from the Confederation of British Industry, which is calling on employers to act to boost productivity growth. While export demand improved slightly over the past month, demand overall is unchanged, and is falling, the CBI figures show.

Although Government ministers continue to claim steady economic recovery, the latest CBI monthly industrial trends survey shows that manufacturing is sluggish. The findings of a sample of more than 1,200 manufacturing firms in September suggest that production industries are still underperforming other areas of the economy.

A net balance of 9 per cent of companies sampled say today that their order books are below normal. This compares with 10 per cent in August and 22 per cent in the CBI's last quarterly survey in July.

CBI analysts point out that the new figure is the least negative so far this year, but accept that order books have been below normal for 12 months. Export orders improved slightly, though are still falling. A net negative balance of 11 per cent of companies said orders were below normal, which is an improvement on the minus 14 per cent figure for August. But manufacturers expect prices overall to remain unchanged for the next four months, confirming a flat trend in prices since July.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate economic analysis director, says: "The improvement in demand seen over the past few months is encouraging, although manufacturers continue to be hampered by weak exports." Stable price expectations are likely to exert a downward pressure on inflation, he says.

The CBI's latest industrial figures come as it urges business to take the opportunity of steady pay rises to boost productivity. The CBI's governing council at its monthly meeting on Wednesday approved its annual pay and performance presentation, which argues that companies must seize the chance of improving competitiveness.

CBI leaders will now present their case on pay in eight regional meetings. Adair Turner, the CBI Director-General, said yesterday: "Although the UK recovery remains firmly on track, we need to improve still further our competitive position."

Hambros pressured for sell-off decision

BY JASON NISSÉ

REGENT PACIFIC, the Hong Kong fund that has bought a 3 per cent stake in Hambros, has given the merchant bank until today to accept its proposals for a £200 million sell-off of Hambros's controlling stakes in Hambro Countrywide and Hambro Insurance Services.

Jim Mellon, chief executive of Regent, has written to Sir Chips Keswick, chairman of Hambros, threatening to take action to oust the bank's management unless it acts on Regent's demands. Sir Chips is unlikely to respond. He agrees that Hambros should streamline, but he sees great value in holding the Countrywide stake in particular.

Mr Mellon said that if Hambros ignored his advice he would consider canvassing other shareholders about a change of management. Selling either the Countrywide or Insurance Services stakes to a single buyer would prompt a bid for either of the independently quoted companies.

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Donald Lewin, Clinton Cards chairman, yesterday

Sales boost on the cards

CLINTON CARDS, the specialist retailer of greeting cards, saw an 11.1 per cent increase in like-for-like sales in the first five weeks of the second half of the financial year, auguring well for the Christmas trading period. Yesterday the company said seasonal first-half losses were reduced to £1.5 million before tax from £1.8 million in the six months to August 4. Losses were 8.15p a share (10.68p loss). The interim dividend rises to 1.85p from 1.75p.

BA closes Contract Handling operation

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE first 750 victims of the £1 billion restructuring of British Airways learnt their fate yesterday when the airline announced the closure of its loss-making ground handling unit at Heathrow.

British Airways Contract Handling provides ticketing, check-in, cargo, loading, ramp handling and lost baggage facilities for 25 rival airlines who use Heathrow's Terminals 2 and 3.

But fierce competition from eight other private contract handling agents has meant the division has been consistently losing money. It is believed to have lost up to £5 million over the past three years.

A small number of staff will be transferred to Terminal 4, where they will provide services to British Mediterranean, Canadian and BA's alliance partner airlines. The remainder will be made redundant or offered retraining and redeployment. The unit will close formally on March 31.

Robert Ayling, chief executive, wants to reduce existing staff levels by 5,000 over the next 18 months.

☐ Servisair, the airport services group, has entered a joint venture with Air France to run the airline's aircraft and passenger handling operations at Heathrow. Servisair, which will own a 49 per cent stake in the venture, also announced half-year pre-tax profits of £926,000 (£1.45 million). Earnings were 1.6p a share (2.6p). The interim dividend is 1.65p (1.4p), due on November 27.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

European victory for societies' tax claim

A DECISION by the European Commission for Human Rights may mean that the Leeds Building Society, the Yorkshire Building Society and the National & Provincial, can claim back at least £100 million in overpaid tax. The trio are not likely to receive the money before 1998, as their claim must now go before the European Court of Human Rights for a final decision. The Court is, however, likely to follow the opinion of the Commission. It is possible that the societies may be joined by the Bradford & Bingley Building Society, which had earlier withdrawn from the proceedings.

As revealed by *The Times* yesterday, the Commission has concluded that the UK Government denied the societies the right to a fair hearing over a double taxation case. The row dates back to a 1986 change in the method of collecting income tax on savers' interest, which the societies said had resulted in the double tax charge. The Leeds is now part of the Halifax and N&P has been acquired by Abbey National.

Glaxo plans global split

GLAXO WELLCOME, the pharmaceuticals company, announced a reorganisation yesterday that will separate it into five geographic business regions: Asia-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Japan, and Latin and North America. The decentralised structure, it said, recognises the increasingly global nature of the drugs business and will lead to greater regional autonomy. Each region will have its own director, all of whom will be members of Glaxo's executive committee, whose chairman is Sir Richard Sykes.

Sherwood hits new low

SHARES of Sherwood Group dropped 4½p yesterday, to a new low of 59p, after the textiles manufacturer said its profits had almost halved in the six months to June 30. While UK lace sales held strong, demand dropped in continental Europe and the US, leaving overall taxable profits at £3.75 million (£7.24 million). It blamed the collapse on Lepel, its Italian bra business, which it said suffered from a lack of demand across Europe. Earnings were 1.9p (3.6p) per share. The interim dividend is held at 1.3p, due on November 21.

Brunner Mond at 175p

THE flotation price for Brunner Mond, the alkaline chemicals producer, was set at 175p a share yesterday valuing the company at £133.2 million. The range indicated was 170-210p. Brunner Mond is the only UK producer of soda ash, used in making glass, chemicals and detergents, and makes sodium bicarbonate. About 10 per cent of the shares go to individuals who applied through intermediaries and who will receive about 55 per cent of the shares for which they applied. Dealing starts on September 26.

BBC and ICL join forces for online Internet service

THE BBC confirmed yesterday that it has formed an alliance with ICL, the computer company, to start an online, interactive Internet service which will provide users with everything from sports updates to news on *EastEnders* stars (Eric Reguly writes).

BBC Online will be launched next spring and will draw from the BBC's radio and TV programmes and magazines such as *Top Gear*. Bob Phillis, chief executive of BBC Worldwide, the BBC's commercial division, said: "This pioneering relationship with ICL is an important step in the transformation of the BBC from a bi-media to a multimedia organisation."

ICL, owned by Fujitsu of Japan, will provide the systems integration service, technical expertise and all the start-up investment. The BBC and ICL will split any profits equally.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.07	1.91	Malta	0.603	0.548
Austria Sch	17.57	16.07	Netherlds Gld	2.792	2.582
Belgium Fr	51.47	47.17	New Zealand $	2.38	2.16
Canada $	2.248	2.086	Norway Kr	10.63	9.83
Cyprus Cypf	0.759	0.704	Portugal Esc	251.50	233.00
Denmark Kr	9.64	8.84	S Africa Rd	7.58	6.78
Finland Mkk	7.64	6.98	Spain Pta	204.50	191.50
France Fr	8.42	7.77	Sweden Kr	10.97	10.17
Germany Dm	2.51	2.30	Switzerland Fr	2.07	1.89
Greece Dr	390	365	Turkey Lira	143000	135000
Hong Kong $	12.70	11.70	USA $	1.659	1.529
Iceland	115	95			
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94			
Israel Shk	5.33	4.88			
Italy Lira	2488	2333			
Japan Yen	184.80	168.80			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE UK LIMITED
TRANSFER OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sun Alliance Insurance UK Limited applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 12 September 1996 for his approval, pursuant to Part II of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, to transfer to Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited all of its rights and obligations under policies written by it in the Netherlands through the agencies of Tollemar & Wagener and Van Maele BV prior to 31st December 1995.
2. Copies of the Statement of Particulars of the proposed transfer are available for inspection at the registered offices of Sun Alliance Insurance UK Limited and Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited both at 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB, England and at the registered office of Sun Alliance Verzekering NV at Gebouw Rivierenterp, Amstelplein 166, 1079 LH Amsterdam, Holland on Mondays to Fridays between 9.00am to 5.00pm when particulars may be inspected until 21 October 1996.
3. Written representation concerning the transfer may be sent to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Insurance Directorate, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET before 20 November 1996. The Secretary of State will not determine the application until after considering any representations made to him before that date.

KAYNER ADVERTISING LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Osprey House, 10 Little Portland St, Victoria House, 76 Milton Street, Nottingham, NG1 3QY by 7 October 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator then gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The company are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
16 September 1996
R J Rees
Liquidator

GRESHAM UNDERWRITING AGENCIES LTD
RETIREMENT BENEFIT SCHEME
The Trustee Act 1925 - Section 27

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925, that the Gresham Underwriting Agencies Ltd Retirement Benefit Scheme ("the Scheme") established originally by Gresham Underwriting Agencies Ltd whose registered office was previously at 246 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4BP is winding up.
Any person who has a claim against, entitlement under, or interest in the Scheme (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any part-time employees of that Company) is hereby required to provide written particulars to Barnabas Pension Trustees Limited, 11 St. James Court, Friar Gate, Derby DE1 1ST (reference RGLD) on or before the 31 October 1996.
After this date the Trustees will proceed to distribute the assets of the Scheme among the persons entitled to them having regard only to claims of which they have prior written notice and will not be liable for the assets of the Scheme or any part of them so distributed to any person of whose claim or demand the Trustees had not then had notice.
Barnabas Pension Trustees Limited
Dated 17 September 1996

NOTICE OF THE CREDITORS OF DEE CHEMICAL HOLDINGS LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 00946087
On 3 September 1996 the above company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Richard James Beam of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182a of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at Price Waterhouse, Cornwall House, 76 Milton Street, Nottingham, NG1 3QY by 7 October 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator then gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
16 September 1996
R J Rees
Liquidator

INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982
ELDERS INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
TRANSFER OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Elders Insurance Company Limited applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 12 September 1996, for his approval, pursuant to Part II of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, to transfer to Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited all of its rights and obligations under policies written by it in the Netherlands through the agencies of H J Roelofs Assurantiekantoor BV and Schreurs Assurantiekantoor BV prior to 31st December 1995.
2. Copies of the Statement of Particulars of the proposed transfer are available for inspection at the registered offices of Elders Insurance Company Limited and Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited both at 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB, England and at the registered office of Sun Alliance Verzekering NV at Gebouw Rivierenterp, Amstelplein 166, 1079 LH Amsterdam, Holland on Mondays to Fridays between 9.00am to 5.00pm when particulars may be inspected until 21 October 1996.
3. Written representation concerning the transfer may be sent to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Insurance Directorate, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET before 20 November 1996. The Secretary of State will not determine the application until after considering any representations made to him before that date.

INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982
SUN INSURANCE OFFICE LIMITED
TRANSFER OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sun Insurance Office Limited applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 12 September 1996, for his approval, pursuant to Part II of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, to transfer to Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited all of its rights and obligations under policies written by it in the Netherlands through the agencies of Tollemar & Wagener Van Maele BV prior to 31st December 1995.
2. Copies of the Statement of Particulars of the proposed transfer are available for inspection at the registered offices of Sun Insurance Office Limited and Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited both at 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB, England and at the registered office of Sun Alliance Verzekering NV at Gebouw Rivierenterp, Amstelplein 166, 1079 LH Amsterdam, Holland on Mondays to Fridays between 9.00am to 5.00pm when particulars may be inspected until 21 October 1996.
3. Written representation concerning the transfer may be sent to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Insurance Directorate, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET before 20 November 1996. The Secretary of State will not determine the application until after considering any representations made to him before that date.

INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982
THE SEA INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
TRANSFER OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Sea Insurance Company Limited applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 12 September 1996 for his approval, pursuant to Part II of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, to transfer to Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited all of its rights and obligations under policies written by it in the Netherlands through the agencies of Schreurs Assurantiekantoor BV; Knight Schippers Assurantiekantoor BV; Knight Schreurs Assurantiekantoor BV; Moss & Cavilet Assurantiekantoor BV; and Tollemar Van Rozen prior to 31st December 1995.
2. Copies of the Statement of Particulars of the proposed transfer are available for inspection at the registered offices of The Sea Insurance Company Limited and Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited both at 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB, England and at the registered office of Sun Alliance Verzekering NV at Gebouw Rivierenterp, Amstelplein 166, 1079 LH Amsterdam, Holland on Mondays to Fridays between 9.00am to 5.00pm when particulars may be inspected until 21 October 1996.
3. Written representation concerning the transfer may be sent to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Insurance Directorate, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET before 20 November 1996. The Secretary of State will not determine the application until after considering any representations made to him before that date.

In the matter of
The Collect Dedicated Peace International Group Limited
CDP Europe Operations Limited
CDP Europe Investments
CDP Europe Limited
CDP UK Investments Limited
and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

Following the acquisition in January 1996 of a majority interest in the CDP Group of Companies, Daewoo Inc., the Japanese advertising and media group, has reorganised the CDP Group of Companies. As part of that reorganisation, the above five companies resolved to enter into solvent Members' Voluntary Liquidation.
All five companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full. The above reorganisation and liquidations do not affect the businesses of any Daewoo, or other CDP, Group Company.
Accordingly, notice is hereby given pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the Liquidator of the above companies intend to make a distribution to creditors within four months of 10 October 1996. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the Liquidator, R Smith, at 20 Farringdon Street, London, EC4A 4PP on or before 10 October 1996, which is the last day for proving claims. The full details of claims, referred to above, must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company. Notice is also given that the intended distribution to creditors will be the final distribution to creditors and that it will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the Liquidator's hands following the final distribution to creditors shall be distributed to shareholders absolutely.
Dated: 12 September 1996
R Smith
Liquidator

INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982
PHOENIX ASSURANCE plc
TRANSFER OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Phoenix Assurance plc applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 12 September 1996 for his approval, pursuant to Part II of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, to transfer to Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited all of its rights and obligations under policies written by it in the Netherlands through the agencies of Tollemar & Wagener Van Maele BV; Schreurs Assurantiekantoor BV; Moss & Cavilet Assurantiekantoor BV; and H J Roelofs Assurantiekantoor BV prior to 31st December 1995.
2. Copies of the Statement of Particulars of the proposed transfer are available for inspection at the registered offices of Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited both at 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB, England and at the registered office of Sun Alliance Verzekering NV at Gebouw Rivierenterp, Amstelplein 166, 1079 LH Amsterdam, Holland on Mondays to Fridays between 9.00am to 5.00pm when particulars may be inspected until 21 October 1996.
3. Written representation concerning the transfer may be sent to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Insurance Directorate, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET before 20 November 1996. The Secretary of State will not determine the application until after considering any representations made to him before that date.

JOHN BROWN OFFSHORE STRUCTURES LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 1143031
JOHN BROWN STRUCTURAL DESIGN LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 775837
BOTH COMPANIES IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above companies intends to make a distribution to creditors within four months of 18 October 1996. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the Liquidator, Roger Smith, at KPMG, PO Box 750, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 18 October 1996, which is the last day for proving claims. The full details of claims referred to above, must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company. Notice is also given that the intended distribution is a final distribution and will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the Liquidator's hands following the final distribution to creditors shall be distributed to shareholders absolutely.
Note: The companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
Dated: 11 September 1996
R Smith - Liquidator

In the Matter of
Leyland DAF Holdings Limited
(In Administrative Receivership)
And in the Matter of the Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, I, David Julian Bachler of Bachler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF and Christopher John Hughes of Coopers & Lybrand, Plumtree Court, London EC4A 4HT give notice that on 27 August 1996 we were appointed joint Liquidators of Leyland DAF Holdings Limited (In Administrative Receivership) by resolutions of members and creditors.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 25 October 1996 to send in their full christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Mladyn Julian Cartier of Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5NU, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Note: This notice is purely formal. All the creditors have been or will be paid in full.
Dated: 27 August 1996
H J Carter
Liquidator

In the Matter of
Teamwood Strategy Ventures Ltd
and in the Matter of the Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Mladyn Julian Cartier of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5NU, give notice that I was appointed Liquidator by resolutions of members.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 20th September 1996 to send in their full christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Mladyn Julian Cartier of Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5NU, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated: 27 August 1996
David Julian Bachler and Christopher John Hughes
Joint Liquidators

003534/96
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
THE ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS LIMITED
and
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the order of the High Court (Chancery Division) dated 14 August 1996 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £3,248,000 divided into 750,000 7½% Non-cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each and 2,498,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each to nil, immediately prior to the creation of 5,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each of which 100 Ordinary Shares of £1 each should forthwith be issued at par, together with the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by the above mentioned Act were registered with the Registrar of Companies on 16 August 1996.
DATED this 17th day of September 1996
DEBS London Brentwood
125 London Wall
London EC2Y 5AE
Tel: 0171 614 6436
Ref: CJW

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Henry Rattlinger Bequest
Scheme varies previous Scheme of 4 January 1985
Reference: 306091
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at the office of the University Treasurer, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TS or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool, L3 4DQ, quoting the reference above.

Nordbanken UK Retirement Plan Untraced Members

The trustees of the Nordbanken UK Retirement Plan are finalising the winding up of the Plan and wish to trace any persons who were employed by any company which participated in the Nordbanken Plan, prior to 31.12.1995, who has not received a letter from the Trustees during June or July 1996.

If you were an employee of any company in the Nordbanken Plan and consider that you may be entitled to benefits from the Plan which have not already been secured for you, please contact:

E B Consultants Ltd.
Clarendon House
147 London Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT2 6TL.

The companies which participated in the Nordbanken Plan were:

1) Nordbanken AB (publ) formerly known as Nordbanken (known in the UK as Norbanken London Branch)

2) Securum U.K. Holdings Ltd. formerly known as:

Nordbanken U.K. Holdings plc
PK banken International (UK) Holdings plc
PK English Trust Group plc
The English Trust Group plc
The English Association Group plc
The English Association of American Bond & Share Holders, Ltd.

3) Securum U.K. Ltd. formerly known as:

Nordbanken U.K. Ltd.
English Trust Company Ltd.
PK English Trust Company Ltd.
The English Trust Company Ltd.
The English Association Trust Ltd.
The English Association Investment Trading Co. Ltd.

4) The English Trust (Export Finance) Ltd.

5) The English Association of American Bond and Share Holders, Ltd.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

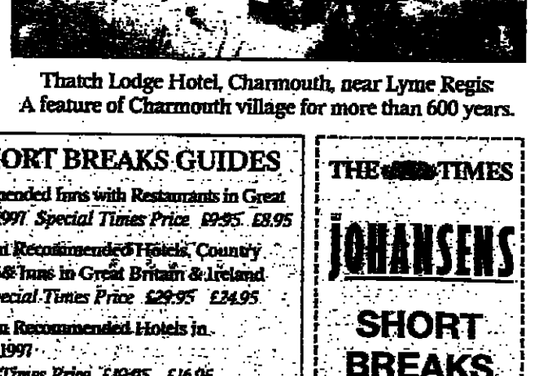
Save up to 50% on Johansens Short Breaks

This week *The Times* is offering readers exclusive savings of up to 50% on short breaks at 365 Johansens recommended hotels, inns and country houses throughout Great Britain, Ireland and, for the first time this year, Europe.

The offer, valid until May 31, 1997, entitles you to savings of 25% to 50% off the normal bed and breakfast rates for two people staying for a minimum of two and a maximum of five consecutive nights. At some hotels you may be able to stay for longer. A full list of participating Johansens establishments appeared in our 24-page colour guide on Tuesday.

To take advantage of this offer book direct with your chosen hotel quoting *The Times* offer and present a voucher with two pre-printed tokens plus a further two tokens on arrival at the hotel. Token six appears below and a second voucher will be printed tomorrow. A voucher and tokens will also appear in The Sunday Times this week.

You could stay at Woolverton House near Bath (pictured). Prices at this 19th century retreat start at £50 per night for two before your 33% discount. Or you could choose to spend a short break in Devon, staying at the Thatch Lodge hotel which has been part of the village of Charmouth for more than 600 years. Ideally situated for Lyme Regis, prices start at £70 per night for two before your 25% discount.



Woolverton House, Somerset, near Bath: An excellent country house hotel from which to explore Bath.

Thatch Lodge Hotel, Charmouth, near Lyme Regis: A feature of Charmouth village for more than 600 years.

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CD-Rom Recommended Hotels in Europe 1997
Special Times Price £19.95 £16.95

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THE TIMES
JOHANSENS
SHORT BREAKS TOKEN 6

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

☐ OFT's wide-ranging look at pensions ☐ Raising cash for cables and the PFI ☐ Brent Walker's managed decline

Dying early is the easy option

☐ THERE is a wonderfully arresting phrase in John Bridgeman's preamble to the launch of an inquiry into pensions mis-selling. "People are now more worried about living too long to provide a comfortable retirement," he says, "than they are about dying early."

What an extraordinary comment on human progress. For nearly all of the lifetime of the human race, for all those millions of years, life has been nasty, brutish and short, and people have feared an early death. Now we worry about our pensions.

What is striking about the Office of Fair Trade's actions is how they diverge from its earlier approach. OFT probes have either been about relatively small markets, as with the disgracefully botched inquiry into compact disc prices, individual market-places like the plethora of investigations into regional bus companies, or into particular deals and whether they should go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Now it is about Life, Pensions and Everything. Perhaps this is a reflection of the consumer-oriented instincts of Mr Bridgeman himself. But it makes one wonder just what is supposed eventually to emerge. How the OFT will arrive there is clear. Anyone who feels they have been mistreated, or feels they have anything at all to say, is invited to contribute, which should ensure plenty of work for the Post Office. Examples of how they cope around the world will be researched, including this year's examplar, Chile.

What can we expect the OFT to come up with, aside from a few more months of uncertainty for the pensions firms and their customers? The best result would be a firm set of conclusions about how individuals should best organise their financial affairs to ensure a comfortable retirement, because such advice has been singularly lacking so far.

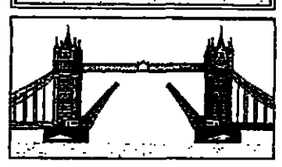
The Government's attempts in the late 1980s to persuade people to abandon occupational schemes in favour of personal responsibility merely threw the problem to the insurance industry, with the disastrous results that we have seen. Thereafter, the Personal Investment Authority's insistence on revealing hitherto hidden costs have had the effect of reducing the diversity of products on offer, by forcing the industry to focus on the cheapest options.

It will do little for the "feel-good" factor to tell 40-year-olds, for example, that they should be stashing away 20 per cent of their income for their old age, which explains why the Government has not been dishing out the unpalatable truth. It had better, therefore, come from a respected body like the OFT.

One helpful spin-off of a proper debate might even be to speed up the PIA, whose dilatory approach to the victims of the original mis-selling since their existence first became clear almost two years ago has become a national scandal. Perhaps that was Mr Bridgeman's aim in the first place.

BICC gives new life to the rights issue

PENNINGTON



☐ LIKE the two companies that merged after the war to create BICC — British Insulated Cables and Callender's Cable & Construction Co — yesterday's £170 million rights issue has a wonderfully old-fashioned ring to it. This, ostensibly, is a company asking investors to put up fresh cash that it can take away to invest for them in areas that the management thinks offer above-average returns.

Truly, it is a while — save for the odd housebuilder raising cash to build up its land bank — since we saw one of these. Companies are so stuffed with cash that they can generally think of nothing else to do but hand it back to shareholders — take a bow here, Reuters. Otherwise, in a diminishing number of cases admittedly, they are frantically raising fresh funds to stave off collapse or pay for earlier management misdeeds, as Wickes will shortly announce.

Rights issues, as a rule, have fallen from fashion. This is perhaps surprising, with the FT-SE 100 possibly days off the 4,000 level. Most of the sharp market falls in recent years were preceded by frantic cash-raising to take advantage of share ratings that no one expected to see again in a while. The markets are so nervous today that underwriting such share issues, and leaving even a few days' exposure to any market collapse, can prove difficult.

Analysts were generally positive on BICC's move, even if there is an element of righting of past misdeeds about it. Alan Jones, the chief executive, arrived early last year and set about him with an axe in several rounds of restructuring. He announced that the group had turned the corner this summer, but those write-offs left gearing at 80 per cent. The rights issue will address this, while providing Mr Jones with useful ammunition to go forward.

The group has earmarked some of the cash for future Private Finance Initiatives, which suggests little urgency to spend it, even if BICC does claim to be one of the few beneficiaries of that programme. The rest is going into cables, with a concentration on the Asia-Pacific region. Significantly, none goes towards the battered construction side. This will have to sit on hold until those markets improve.

Twilight of a fallen star

☐ SCIENTISTS tell us that most stars grow old along fixed lines of evolution, an early, healthy phase being followed by a swift and unwise expansion and then a slow, grey drift towards gradual extinction. Some companies too, and Brent Walker, once one of the brightest stars in the firmament, is now at the white dwarf stage, heading towards the final dying of the light.

Most of those pearls that George Walker collected have gone. The Trocadero is the biggest quote on the Alternative Investment Market; Brighton Marina, which George used to dash enthusiastically around trailing packs of perspiring analysts at his heels, was sold this summer for just £9 million. All that will shortly be left is the Pubmaster chain and the William Hill betting shops.

Both are for sale as the banks look to crystallise losses on £1.5 billion of debt. Buyers such as Bass and Stanley Leisure have lost interest in William Hill, worth up to £500 million, and a deal will have to wait for next year when the full damage from the National Lottery is clear. A trade sale of the pubs has been abandoned, and venture capital groups are being canvassed in the region of £160 million, with the option of holding off for a market flotation in 1997 if their offers are insufficient.

Against this drab background financial reports like yesterday's, festooned with accountants' qualifications and bankers' cautions, are an irrelevance. The shares, at a few pence, are worthless, even if once in a while they get up, zombie-like, and stagger around.

Star's end

☐ BOUSTEAD, on any chart of stellar evolution, has progressed to the brown dwarf stage, and the Stock Exchange is about to turn out the light forever. Once a mish-mash of investments, it is now a cash shell, and such are not allowed to trade. The board must make an acquisition within six months, or the listing goes. Such are the rules, even if it is not entirely clear whose interests they are designed to serve.

BICC seeks £170m for investment

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A TURNING point was yesterday signalled by BICC, the cables and construction company that has been undergoing substantial restructuring, with the launch of a £170 million rights issue (See Pennington this page).

BICC plans to pump £200 million into a variety of projects. The bulk will go into cables and data communications with substantial chunks going towards developing businesses in Asia-Pacific and Private Finance Initiatives in the UK.

Alan Jones, chief executive, said a sense of urgency and momentum fuelled the company's drive to expand after a period in which it had streamlined operations and closed factories. He said: "We have tried to make the business more market-led and these opportunities are very much driven by the market." A substantial part of the investments will focus on the fast-moving fibre optics market.

The two-for-11 rights issue will be priced at 270p a share. Yesterday the price slipped back 1p to 315½p.

Last month BICC reported a £2 million interim pre-tax loss after absorbing £65 million in charges to pay for rationalisations and asset writedowns. But Mr Jones, who was recruited from GKN's Westland helicopter division last year to restore BICC to health, said the first-half results marked the low point for the company after which the benefits of restructuring would start to become apparent.

BICC will remain committed to construction through its Balfour Beatty business, although Mr Jones said that the turnround for Balfour was some way down the road. He said productivity increases and more flexible forms of working were being implemented to combat the poor state of the market in UK construction.

Investment plans announced yesterday spring from a general review of strategy that started when Mr Jones arrived at the company.

Pubmaster attracts five bids

BRENT WALKER, the gambling and pub retail company, said yesterday it was considering five bids from venture capital groups for its Pubmaster business and hopes to make a sale shortly (Alasdair Murray writes).

The five groups interested in Pubmaster, which owns 1,700 mainly tenanted pubs, include Apax and CVC. Bids are expected to be in the region of £130 million compared with a book value of £140 million. Pubmaster increased profits by 11 per cent to £8.9 million.

But Brent Walker, which is still struggling with debts of nearly £1.5 billion, said plans to sell off its William Hill betting shops were on hold.

The company incurred half-year losses of £51.6 million, compared with £51.4 million last year. Interest charges totalled £85 million while overall turnover slipped slightly to £853 million. Operating profits increased 38 per cent to £37.7 million as betting operations improved profitability. There is no dividend.

GGT must pay £5m to finish deal

GGT GROUP, the advertising agency, will have to pay more than £5 million in fees to City firms to complete its £105 million purchase of BDDP, its French rival, which is more than twice its size (Jason Nissé writes).

The deal ends months of speculation about the future of BDDP, which was bought by its management team and a consortium of banks for just £40 million two years ago.

GGT's purchase will take until January to complete. According to Nick McCarthy of HSBC James Capel, GGT's stockbrokers, the due diligence and underwriting costs are likely to top £5 million.

It is expected that a one-for-one share issue to raise £55 million will be launched along with £35 million of GGT shares going to the French management and a £20 million loan. GGT's shares were supended at 223p yesterday and will remain so until the deal goes through.

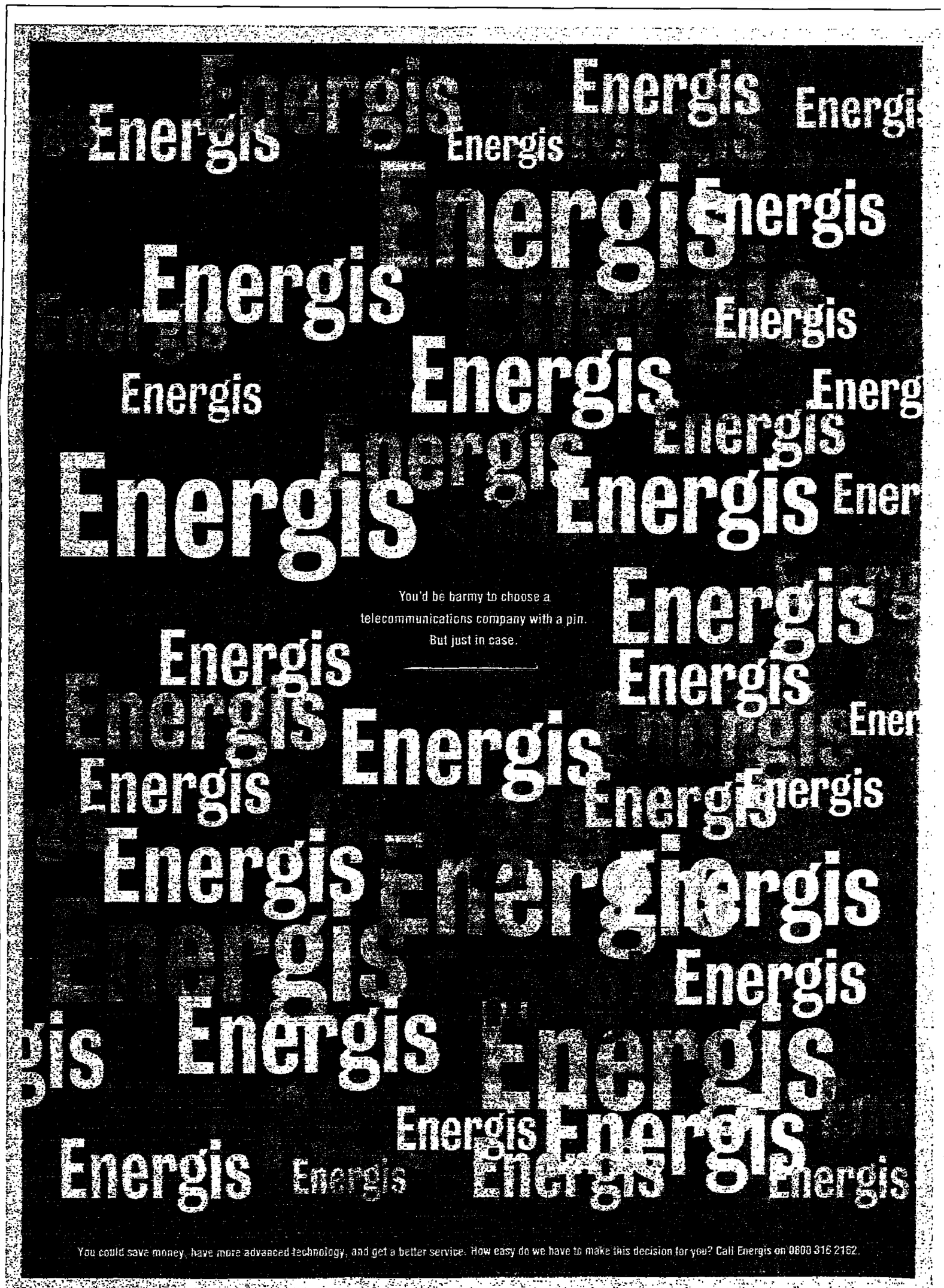
Tempus, page 26

Irish Life outstrips market expectations

STRONG investment earnings and good growth in new business allowed Irish Life, the largest assurance group in the Irish Republic, to surprise the stock market with better than expected interim results (Eileen McCabe writes).

Embedded value earnings, the company's key profit indicator measuring the future value of policies sold during the year, the value of existing business, and increases in shareholders' investment, jumped 20 per cent to Ir£48 the first six months of 1995, will be paid on November 22.

The company said investment earnings rose from Ir£7 million to Ir£12 million, largely because of an exceptional gain from its property portfolio. Product earnings rose 9 per cent to Ir£36 million with new business contributing almost Ir£5 million, but premium income fell more than 7 per cent to Ir£382 million. Total group sales fell 11 per cent to Ir£204 million. In Ireland total sales rose 7 per cent to Ir£107.8 million.



STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Roche and Glaxo in City talk of bid for Zeneca

SHARES of Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals group demerged from ICI, surged to a new high as talk that a bid may be just round the corner was revived.

At one stage the price soared above £16 before closing 46¹2p higher at £15.90 as almost 4.5 million shares changed hands in a market where traders will normally only make a price in 25,000 at a time.

In the Square Mile there is talk of a bid from Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical group, which is one of the few companies that has the financial muscle to raise the £19 billion needed to finance the deal. This story was fuelled by reports of heavy Swiss buying of Zeneca shares, in the form of American Depository Receipts, overnight in New York.

Glaxo Wellcome is also seen as a possible suitor for Zeneca, while some traders claim Zeneca is poised to link up with one of its main rivals to form a joint venture. Sir David Barnes, Zeneca's chief executive, has played down talk of a takeover but brokers maintain there is never smoke without fire. Without a bid the shares look expensive.

Elsewhere, technical factors provided the rest of the equity market with a springboard with which to launch another assault on the 4,000 level. As market-makers attempted to square their positions ahead of today's expiry of the September futures contracts the FT-SE 100 index hit a new intra trading high of 3,987.7. But with Wall Street opening lower on the back of some stronger than expected US housing starts, it saw its lead cut back to 18.6 points at 3,974.3 to end just 2.9 short of its previous best. A total of 708 million shares were traded.

Lloyds Abbey Life was another takeover favourite, with the price jumping 11¹2p to 592p. Once again the story suggests **Lloyds TSB**, down 6p at 391p, is poised to mop up the minority stake it does not already own.

News of job losses and proposed restructuring left **British Airways** sporting a rise of 14p at 541p, while **Cable and Wireless** benefited from recent presentations with brokers, adding 8p at 457p.

BICC finished 1p lighter at 315¹2p as brokers gave their seal of approval to the group's plan to raise £170 million by way of a two-for-11 rights issue at 270p. It wants the money to form part of a £215 million investment programme in the optical fibre industry over the next couple of years.



Ken Lever, financial director, left, and Robin Paul, of Albright & Wilson, saw brokers reducing forecasts

Half-year figures from **RMC Group** were every bit as bad as feared with pre-tax profits dropping from £130.3 million to £95.8 million. Brokers immediately began downgrading their estimates for the full year with SBC Warburg reckoned to have slashed its forecast by £40 million to £275 million. The group blamed much of the setback on the recession in Germany where its profits plunged from £65.2 million to £28 million. The shares fell 42p to £11.10¹2.

William Morrison, the supermarket chain, received a lukewarm reception with the shares finishing ¹2p lighter at 159¹2p. Profits were at the top end of expectations but the statement on current trading failed to inspire. Brokers are still looking for between £130 million and £135 million for the full year.

Albright & Wilson, whose chief executive is Robin Paul, was pegged at 200¹2p as brokers reduced their full-year forecasts to take account of provisions expected to reach £3.5 million. James Capel, the broker, has cut its forecast from £67 million to £63.3 million, with Kleinwort Benson looking for £62 million. Half-year profits rose £1.9 million to £32 million.

French Connection, the fashion group, put on 5p at 247¹2p after reporting an improvement in both profits and margins during the first half.

Go-Ahead Group, the bus operator, moved into top gear with a rise of 50p to 367¹2p after its Victory Railway subsdiary won the franchise to operate Thames Trains for an initial seven years. The Thames management holds a 35 per cent stake in Victory.

Treats Group, the ice cream maker which issued a profits warning earlier this week, rallied 13p to 100¹2p. That compares with the flotation price of 174p back in June. **Treatt**, the flavour and fragrance company, and no relation to Treats, was unchanged at 249p.

Boustead slipped ¹2p to 16¹2p on learning that the shares are to be frozen on Monday as the company is now considered to be almost exclusively a cash vehicle. The listing will be retained for six months while the group thinks about the future.

Brent Walker, the debt-laden leisure group, slipped ¹4p to 2³4p after unveiling further heavy losses of £51.6 million at the halfway stage.

An encouraging statement about current trading offset news of further losses at **Clinton Cards** with the shares adding 14¹2p to a new high for the year of 150¹2p.

An interim profit setback failed to undermine **Geest**, 4p firmer at 236¹2p, but left **Sherwood Group** 4¹2p lower at 59p, and **Steel Burrill Jones** 2¹2p lighter at 34p. **S Daniels** held steady at 31¹2p after a return to the black.

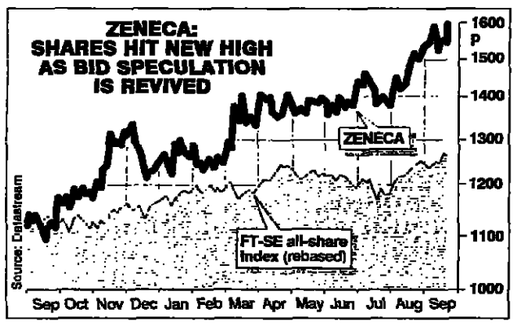
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices recovered from a nervous start that greeted the stronger than expected money supply numbers and prompted an early mark-down. But the London market recovered its poise and went on to outperform US Treasury bonds which came in lower on the back of the housing start numbers.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished a couple of ticks firmer at £107¹2 as a total of 50,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished ³32 down at £99³32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 eased a tick to £103³8.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Strong housing start statistics in the US triggered further fears over interest rates on Wall Street and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 24.41 points lower at 5,852.95.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch household products group, ended 15¹2p higher at £13.89, ahead of meetings next week between Niall Fitzgerald, the new chief executive, and brokers. Now that the Persil fiasco and problems over ice cream distribution are out of the way, they will want to know what his plans are.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ..... 5852.95 (-24.41)
S&P Composite ..... 680.57 (-0.90)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ..... 21322.85 (+166.10)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ..... 11586.68 (-7.35)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index ..... 563.1.81 (+0.65)

Sydney:
AO ..... 2247.1 (+12.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX ..... 2624.44 (-1.26)

Singapore:
Straits ..... 2206.09 (+23.78)

Brussels:
General ..... 9682.58 (-36.60)

Paris:
CAC-40 ..... 3082.33 (+9.60)

Zurich:
SKA Gen ..... 775.90 (-1.50)

London:

FT 30	2846.5 (+8.1)
FT 100	3974.3 (+18.6)
FT-SE Mid 250	4427.5 (-6.1)
FT-SE-A 350	1981.3 (+6.7)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1695.76(+2.46)
FT A All-Share	1957.02 (+6.23)
FT Non Financials	2060.26 (+7.26)
FT Fixed Interest	113.14 (+0.04)
FT Govt Secs	93.54 (+0.40)
Bargains	40668
SEAQ Volume	708.9m
USM (Datastrm)	208.06 (-0.03)
US$	1.5510 (-0.0098)
German Mark	2.3481 (-0.0064)
Exchange Index	85.9 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2334
£:SDR	1.0790
RPI	153.1 Aug (2.4%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	152.8 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Amer Opps U Ln	100	...
Barbican Health	62¹2	...
Dairy Crest Gp	184¹2	...
Dentmaster Hldgs	4	...
Electronic Retailg	241	...
Fayrewood	45¹2	...
GT Chile Growth	259³4	+ 16¹4
Gartland Whalley	102¹2	- 2
Grosvenor Land	14¹4	...
Hambros Smlr Asn C	66	...
Hoare Govett 1000 C	97¹2	...
Life Numbers	12	...
Life Numbers Wts	5	...
Pemberstone Wts	6	...
Polydoc	70¹2	...
Regent Kngpn Chle	274.0³4	+ 16¹4
Regent Kngpn Wts	353¹4	+ 03¹4
Schrod Emg Cou Wts	39	...
Schrod Emg Countrs	94	- ¹4
Selector	68	...
St James Place	89	...
Value Realstion	71	+ ³4

RIGHTS ISSUES

Wyko Group n/p (123) 15 ...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Go-Ahead	367¹2p (+50p)
Blagden	195p (+10p)
Chiroscience	379p (+12¹2p)
Rentokil	442p (+13¹2p)
Biocomps Intl	495p (+15p)
Br Airways	541p (+14p)
Alumasc	410p (+10p)
BAA	504p (+11¹2p)
Lloyds Abbey	592p (+11¹2p)
Cobham	640¹2p (+8p)
Tottenhm Hot	471¹2p (+9p)
Sema Group	797¹2p (+14p)
BOC	873p (+13p)

FALLS:

Telspec	207¹2p (-15p)
Norbain	480p (-15p)
Bodycote	607¹2p (-10p)
Micro Focus	710p (-10p)
Ricardo Gp	115p (-10p)
Time Products	382p (-9¹2p)
Fine Art Dev	498¹2p (-12p)
Redland	455¹2p (-9p)
Avon Rubber	743p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Foundations shaken

THE downgrading of full-year profit forecasts for RMC yesterday indicates just how much concern there is about the weakness of the German economy, its largest market.

Although the company had given warning at the full year that the German economic downturn would be compounded by severe weather conditions in the first half, the scale of the setback — with trading profits plummeting from £65.2 million to £28 million — raised eyebrows. Worse, Peter Young, RMC's chief executive, indicated that the problems would continue into 1997, with particular weakness in eastern Germany.

One cause for concern is that when the economy does pick up, RMC won't see immediate benefit across the board. Recovery is likely to be led by the housing sector, with the longer-term industrial and commercial contracts that constitute a large part of RMC's business lagging behind. That means Redland, focused more closely on the housing sector, will be first to enjoy the bounce back.

This, however, is a company with a strong track record and a proven ability to scrap — witness its strategic stake-buying during the extraordinary battle that ensued when Lafarge, the French materials group, bid for Ennemix, the tiny aggregates company. It is worth bearing in mind that if the likes of Camas were to come into play, RMC would be in the running.

Yesterday's concerns meant the company could not repeat April's stunt, when its shares completed the day 1p up at £10.51 in spite of its profit warning. Given the steady rise since, the 42p drop to £11.10 probably included some profit-taking. Hold for the long term.

French Connection

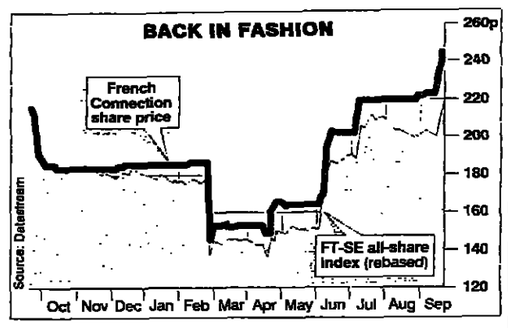
FRENCH CONNECTION shares fell heavily at the beginning of this year as high street doldrums put severe pressure on its profits. The current consumer boom has brought its profits, and its share price, back to life.

The company has worked to improve its ranges, and its winter offerings have been well-received. On the retail front, sales at both upmarket Nicole Farhi and the less-elevated French Connection stores are ahead by a similar amount. The group's like-for-like sales in the first half were a solid 7.1 per cent ahead and, at the beginning of the second half, have made it into double figures in the UK.

In the wholesale business, turnover was only marginally ahead in the first half and margins were similar to last year, but things are looking up at the beginning of this half, with initial indications of repeat business above those achieved at the same stage last year.

The question now is how will the company perform if there is another dip in high street trade after the pre-election boom. Unfortunately, its reliance on fashion sales makes it vulnerable to any slowdown on the high street, as proven by its erratic performance in recent years.

With a general election on the horizon and pressure from the Bank of England appearing to lessen the likelihood of further pre-election interest rates cuts, the time to buy has probably been missed.



GGT Group

THE tabloid headlines saying the 1980s are back again have clearly gone to the head of Mike Greenlees. One look at booming retail sales and the advertising chief is buying rivals twice his company's size with all the gay abandon of WPP's purchase of J Walter Thompson or, dare we say it, Blue Arrow's acquisition of Manpower.

For GGT Group, whose market capitalisation was just £60 million, to think of buying BDDP of France for £105 million is bravado indeed, given the price was too rich either for US agency Grey or arch dealmaker Martin Sorrell of WPP. To finance it through a £55 million rights issue, a £35 million vendor placing of shares and £20 million of loans takes it to a breathless level of high finance. To suspend the company's shares for three months while the deal is completed brings a whole new concept in nail-biting. Mr Greenlees must be praying that Tony Dye of PDFM is not right about an imminent stock market crash.

As to whether GGT shares are worth buying — well, if you can say where the stock market will be in January you might hazard an estimate. But as GGT is paying over the odds for a French advertising agency with what can best be described as a colourful past, it does not appear to be that brilliant a deal.

Irish Life

IRISH LIFE'S half-year results should provide a temporary diversion for staff from the bitter wrangling that continues to characterise the company's efforts to restructure its branch network throughout the Irish Republic.

Three years ago the company set out to make its operations more efficient and customer-oriented. However, the reform programme has been dogged by disputes and yesterday a company spokesman admitted that delays were having a negative impact on sales.

But the decision to concentrate on improving margins is already bearing fruit, as demonstrated by yesterday's results which saw embedded value earnings rise despite a fall in premium income. There was also a boost from lower-than-expected mortality rates which resulted in lower payouts, and a slowdown in the number of lapsed policies.

But the most intriguing item in the results report concerns the strides made by Irish Life International in the sales of off-shore insurance/investment products from its offices at Dublin's International Financial Services Centre.

Although Irish Life was slow to plug into the centre's potential, it has certainly made up for lost time. Sales rose to Ir£27 million in the first half from Ir£2 million.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Sep	960-955	Dec	1063-1060
Dec	983-982	Mar	1072-1071
Mar	1005-1004	May	1081-1080
May	1020-1019	Jul	1091-1085
Jul	1034-1033		
Sep	1049-1047		Volume: 3319

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	1580-1575	May	1402-1400
Nov	1498-1495	Jul	1397-1390
Jan	1453-1450	Sep	1397-1395
Mar	1420-1415		Volume: 4385

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	332.3-331.5
Spot: 334.2		Oct	325.0-23.0
Dec	331.5-31.0	Dec	326.0-23.5
Mar	331.7-30.0	Mar	327.0-26.0
May	331.1-30.0		Volume: 2270

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on September 16

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	109.95	115.17	97.50
(+/-)	-0.34	-5.24	+1.92
Eng/Wales	109.95	115.46	96.54
(+/-)	-0.34	-5.54	+1.84
(%)	+0.0	-21.0	+11.0
Scotland:	unq	114.36	101.01
(+/-)	..	-4.57	+1.79
(%)	..	-28.0	+25.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	22.15	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Nov)	22.00	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Dec)	21.45	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	23.15	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	22.65	-0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	212 (-2)	214 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	225 (-1)	226 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	114 (n/c)	116 (n/c)
Naphtha	206 (n/c)	207 (-1)

(PE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Oct	215.25-15.50	Jan	197.25-97.50
Nov	208.25-08.50	Feb	190.25 BID
Dec	205.25-05.75		Vol: 12538

BRENT (6.00pm)

Nov	21.96-21.97	Feb	20.35 SLR
Dec	21.45-21.47	Mar	19.82 SLR
Jan	20.90 SLR		Vol: 16404

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

	WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	105.50	Sep	100.50
Nov	106.20	Nov	102.25
Jan	107.90	Jan	103.75
Mar	109.90	Mar	105.25
May	111.40	May	107.25
	Volume: 582		Volume: 138

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Nov	unq	35.0
Mar	..	74.5
Apr	67.9	69.0
	Volume: 51	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Oct 88.75-89.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $100/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Sep 96	1005	1000	1003
Oct 96	1141	1130	1125
Nov 96	1220	1205	1206
Jan 97	1245	1225	1240
Vol: 366 lots		Open interest: 3959	
	Index: 1003 -8		

(Official) (Volume prev day) — **LONDON METAL EXCHANGE** — **Rudolf Wolff**

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1916.0-1917.0	1930.0-1921.0	146175
Lead ($/tonne)	785.00-787.00	786.00-787.00	269775
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1005.5-1006.0	1032.0-1032.5	560700
Tin ($/tonne)	6070.0-6080.0	6135.0-6140.0	29280
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1389.0-1389.5	1424.0-1424.5	1418850
Nickel ($/tonne)	7290.0-7295.0	7380.0-7385.0	72432

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
Allid Dom ... 460	17	27	35	5	19¹2	25
(*471¹2) 500	2¹2	9¹2	18	29¹2	45¹2	49
ASDA ... 100	6	9	12¹2	2	3¹2	4¹2
(*104¹2) 110	1	4	7	7	8¹2	9¹2
Boots ... 600	40	49¹2	62¹2	1	10¹2	15
(*636¹4) 650	7¹2	20¹2	33¹2	18¹2	32	36¹2
Br Airways . 500	44	51¹2	63	0¹2	7¹2	11¹2
(*541) 550	8	20¹2	33¹2	14¹2	26¹2	31
BP ... 600	48¹2	57¹2	67	1	7	13¹2
(*645¹2) 650	10	26	36¹2	13¹2	29¹2	33
Br Steel ... 180	16	19	22¹2	0¹2	5	7
(*194¹2) 200	3	8	12	8	14¹2	16¹2
C & W ... 420	39	47	58¹2	1¹4	9	13
(*456¹4) 460	10	22	35	13	24	29
CU ... 600	14¹2	34¹2	43	9¹2	30¹2	37¹2
(*602¹4) 650	1	13¹2	23¹2	47¹2	51¹2	60
ICI ... 800	47¹2	69	79¹2	4	14	25¹2
(*841¹2) 850	15	39	49¹2	21	33¹2	48
Land Sec ... 700	13	25¹2	37¹2	8¹2	21¹2	25¹2
(*701¹2) 750	0¹2	8¹2	16¹2	48¹2	56	57¹2
M & S ... 900	13	24	34	7¹2	16¹2	20¹2
(*903) 950	0¹2	6	13¹2	47	50	52
Nat West ... 650	37¹2	58	66¹2	4	15	20¹2
(*681¹2) 700	8¹2	28	39	25	37¹2	53¹2
Safeway plc 300	28	34¹2	40¹2	1	5	9¹2
(*327) 330	7	15¹2	23¹2	9¹2	17	22
Sainsbury ... 360	19	26	33¹2	2	8¹2	12
(*375) 390	3¹2	11	19¹2	16¹2	24	27¹2
Shell ... 950	54¹2	69¹2	83¹2	1	17¹2	30
(*994) 1000	4	23¹2	36	36	43¹2	55¹2
Smkl Bch ... 720	35¹2	—	—	0¹2	—	—
(*763¹2) 780	10	—	—	27¹2	—	—
Stanshaw ... 300	12	—	—	3	—	—
(*307¹4) 330	1	—	—	22¹2	—	—
Trafalgar ... 50	1	—	—	0¹2	—	—
(*50) 60	0	—	—	10	—	—
Zeneca ... 1550	21¹2	113¹2	146	2¹2	9¹2	13
(*1590) 1600	45¹2	92	123	46	72¹2	95¹2

Series	Calls Nov	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Nov	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
BAT Ind ... 460	23¹2	33¹2	41¹2	15	19¹2	30¹2
(*465¹2) 500	7¹2	16¹2	24¹2	40	42	54¹2
Vodafone ... 220	12	16	22	7	10¹2	13¹2
(*223¹2) 240	4	7¹2	13	19	23¹2	25

Series	Calls Nov	Calls Feb	Calls May	Puts Nov	Puts Feb	Puts May
Grnd Met ... 460	30	39¹2	45	6	17	20
(*480¹2) 500	9	19	25¹2	25	38¹2	41
Ladbroke ... 200	11	17¹2	20	5	7¹2	11¹2
(*207¹2) 220	2¹2	8¹2	11	17	19	23
Utd Bisc ... 300	19	26	28	6	10	14¹2
(*294¹2) 330	3¹2	8	9¹2	30	32¹2	37

September 19, 1996 Tot: 49004 Call: 31476 Put: 17618 FT-SE Call: 12177 Put: 5418
*Underlying security price.

Series	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
BAA ... 500	11	26	35	8	18	22¹2
(*504) 550	0	7¹2	14¹2	46	51	54
Thames W.. 550	19¹2	30¹2	39	6¹2	20	28¹2
(*555¹2) 600	1	8	19	44¹2	54¹2	60

Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
BTR ... 390	20	25¹2	28¹2	3	6	9
(*279¹2) 280	7	13	17	11	14	18¹2
Br Aero ... 1050	38¹2	65¹2	79	28¹2	41¹2	52
(*1061¹2) 1100	17	41¹2	55¹2	57¹2	68¹2	78¹2
Br Telcm ... 360	23	29	33	5	11¹2	15
(*376) 390	6¹2	13	18	16¹2	22¹2	30
Cadbury ... 500	22¹2	37	41	12	18¹2	28
(*505¹4) 550	4¹2	15¹2	19	45¹2	48¹2	58
Guinness ... 460	14¹2	26	32¹2	14	18¹2	27
(*463) 500	2¹2	10¹2	16	42¹2	45	52
GEC ... 390	16¹2	25¹2	33	9	15¹2	18
(*396) 420	5	11¹2	19	26¹2	32	34¹2
Hanson ... 160	8¹2	13¹2	—	4¹2	8	—
(*162¹2) 180	1¹2	5	—	18	21	—
LASMO ... 200	11	17	20¹2	4¹2	7¹2	9¹2
(*204¹2) 220	3	8	11¹2	16¹2	18¹2	20¹2
LucasVarity 240	12¹2	20	24¹2	9¹2	14	17
(*241¹2) 260	4¹2	11¹2	16	21	25¹2	28
Pilkington ... 160	17¹2	22¹2	26¹2	2¹2	5	6¹2
(*168) 200	5	11	15¹2	11	13¹2	15¹2
Prudential .. 420	26	37	43	6¹2	12¹2	21¹2
(*441¹2) 480	8	17¹2	23	28	33¹2	43
Redland ... 420	38¹2	48¹2	56	4¹2	10	16
(*456) 460	12¹2	25	33¹2	21	26¹2	34¹2
R-Royce ... 220	19¹2	26	30	3	6¹2	10
(*236¹2) 240	7¹2	14¹2	18¹2	11¹2	15¹2	19
Tesco ... 300	10¹2	19	23¹2	10¹2	15	20¹2
(*301) 330	2¹2	8	12	33	35	39¹2
Williams ... 360	9	—	—	13	—	—
(*360¹2) 390	1¹2	—	—	36¹2	—	—

FT-SE INDEX (*3974)

3850	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100

Calls				Puts		
Sep	134	84	36	3¹2	1	1
Oct	146	102	65	36	16	5¹2
Nov	168	130	95	54¹2	40¹2	23
Dec	200¹2	160¹2	126¹2	98	69	47
Jun	—	250¹2	—	195¹2	—	146
Puts						
Sep	1	1	2	26	76	126
Oct	11	17¹2	29¹2	58	82¹2	126
Nov	21¹2	33	48	69	97	132¹2
Dec	39¹2	51¹2	69¹2	88¹2	114¹2	144¹2
Jun	—	133	—	176	—	229¹2

Series	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Calls Apr	Puts Sep	Puts Dec	Puts Apr
Abbey Nat ...	600	46¹2	60	65¹2	72¹2	79	89¹2
(*626)	650	19¹2	33¹2	90	96	105	115
Amstrad ...	140	18¹2	—	—	7	—	—
(*146¹2)	160	7	—	—	18	—	—
Barclays ...	950	65	63¹2	73¹2	80	80¹2	86¹2
(*951)	1000	23	40¹2	51¹2	59	79¹2	85¹2
Blue Circ ...	390	20	27¹2	33	14	17	23¹2
(*391¹2)	420	7¹2	14	19¹2	32¹2	34¹2	41
Br Gas ...	200	7	12¹2	15	10¹2	13	19
(*200¹4)	220	2	6	8	26	27¹2	32¹2
Dixons ...	550	30¹2	44¹2	56	19¹2	27¹2	32¹2
(*555)	600	10	22¹2	33¹2	50¹2	56	60¹2
Forte ...	340	—	—	—	0	—	—
(*341)	373	—	—	—	0	—	—
Tarmac ...	90	8¹2	10¹2	12	3¹2	4¹2	6¹2
(*98)	100	4	6	7	9	9¹2	12
Hillsdown ...	180	8¹2	12¹2	14¹2	8	10	15
(*181¹2)	200	2	5	6¹2	21¹2	23	28
Lonrho ...	160	19¹2	21¹2	24	2	4¹2	6
(*175)	180	7	10	13	10	13¹2	15
Sears ...	90	7¹2	—	—	2¹2	—	—
(*94¹2)	100	2¹2	—	—	8	—	—
Thorn EMI	1700	103¹2	—	—	24¹2	—	—
(*1762¹2)	1800	46¹2	—	—	69	—	—
Tomkins ...	260	24	29	33	5	9	10¹2
(*277)	280	11¹2	17	21¹2	12¹2	17	19¹2
Lloyds TSB ...	390	21¹2	28	32	14¹2	25¹2	25
(*391¹2)	420	9	15	19¹2	32¹2	43	43

Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Glaxo W ...	950	29¹2	57¹2	7¹2	15	30¹2	47¹2
(*960)	1000	9	34	51	45	57	74
HSBC ...	1200	35	73¹2	92	21	43	60
(*1209)	1250	13¹2	49	68¹2	50	69	97
Reuter ...	750	19¹2	47¹2	62¹2	15¹2	29	44¹2
(*753¹2)	800	3¹2	25	39¹2	49¹2	59¹2	72

Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Royal & Sun ...	394	9¹2	23	26¹2	11	19¹2	30¹2
(*396¹2)	431	0¹2	8	12¹2	41	45¹2	55¹2

Series	Oct	Feb	May	Oct	Feb	May
Kingfishr ...	650	20	45¹2	55¹2	12¹2	27	37¹2
(*662¹2)	700	2¹2	23	32¹2	49¹2	54¹2	65

Series	Oct	Dec	Mar	Oct	Dec	Mar
Unilever ...	1350	89¹2	63¹2	90¹2	6	18¹2	28
(*1384)	1400	17	33	60¹2	21	39¹2	49¹2

Series	Sep	Dec	Mar	Sep	Dec	Mar
Natl Pwr ...	360	42¹2	50	5¹2	9	10¹2
(*369¹2)	400	15¹2	26¹2	—	18	23¹2	—
Scot Pwr ...	294	21¹2	28	—	6¹2	11¹2	—
(*304¹2)	323	6	14	—	20	26¹2	—

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Sep 96	3959.0	3993.0	3958.0	3984.0	20427
Previous open interest: 66065	Dec 96	3985.5	4026.0	3985.5	4011.0	18214
FT-SE 250	Sep 96	4425.0	4425.0	4425.0	4425.0	196
Previous open interest: 3875	Dec 96	4460.0	4460.0	4460.0	4460.0	196
Three Month Sterling	Dec 96	94.07	94.09	94.05	94.07	24955
Previous open interest: 396858	Mar 97	93.89	93.92	93.86	93.89	19576
	Jun 97	93.50	93.63	93.56	93.58	16973
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97	99.17	99.17	99.16	99.17	100
	Jun 97	98.98	98.98	98.98	98.98	50
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 96	96.82	96.83	96.79	96.81	30530
Previous open interest: 989842	Mar 97	96.71	96.73	96.68	96.70	21685
Long Gilt	Sep 96	108-02	108-06	108-00	108-06	1029
Previous open interest: 131928	Dec 96	107-15	107-19	107-06	107-16	49698
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 96	122.26	122.30	122.10	112.12	1453
	Mar 97	121.19	121.19	121.19	121.12	10
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 96	98.13	98.16	97.87	98.07	150179
Previous open interest: 217317	Mar 97	97.08	97.08	97.08	97.11	50
Three month ECU	Dec 96	95.75	95.78	95.74	95.77	1541
Previous open interest: 20841	Mar 97	95.72	95.76	95.72	95.75	793
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 96

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Inopportune calls for Green

SIR IAIN VALLANCE, chairman of BT, received a complaint yesterday from a very angry Hughie Green. The cult host of *Opportunity Knocks* and *Double Your Money* is absolutely raging after his ex-directory telephone number fell into rogue hands. Anyone who called City Deal Services freephone number last Sunday, requesting details of the forthcoming Thistle Hotels share offer, would not have heard the usual recorded message. Instead, they were told: "You have won £100 worth of shares in Thistle Hotels. To claim your prize contact Hughie Green on 0171-xxxxxxx. Your share certificate will be sent to you shortly." Green was kept awake until three in the morning dealing with "abusive" callers. "My entire life has been devoted to giving away money, but I don't want my name being used to push shares," says Green.

Diamond blues

DAVID FARDON, a manager at Argyle Diamonds, was taking extra care at yesterday's viewing of the 47-carat pink diamond collection at The Lanesborough hotel. It was only two year's ago that Fardon was showing off a rare pink diamond priced at $500,000, when it dropped onto his belly and bounced into the unknown. Eventually, Fardon's zealous secretary found it in the turn-up of his trousers.



Green: kept awake

Sheepish

CHEZ GÉRARD, venue of the Maxwell celebratory shindig yesterday, is responsible for sending out some rather disturbing invitations. The restaurant chain has sent out 250 Damien Hirst-style plastic sheep pickled in urine sample bottles, along with an invitation to the tenth gathering of The Carnivores' Club at Butcher's Hall in the City. Could the idea have come from Clare Whitley, Chez Gérard's finance director, whose husband just happens to be David Kershaw, a director at M&C Saatchi?

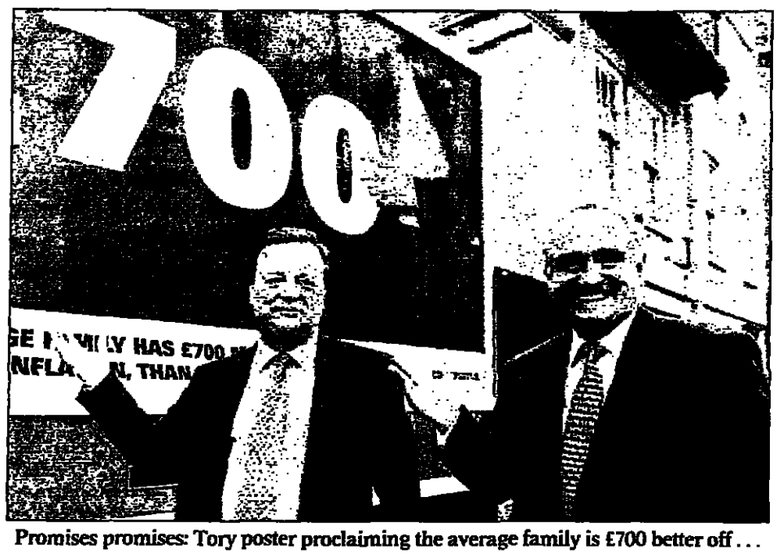
Trust for Labour

A FLIER falls on my desk from TU Fund Managers with an opportunity to upstage Matthew Harding. Tony Christopher, chairman and another of Tony Blair's coffer-fillers, promises to donate 50p to the Labour Party when I send for more details on the TU British Trust. For every £1,000 invested or savings plan opened, TU Fund Managers, which boasts Paul Blagborough, finance director at the Labour Party, as one of its directors, will give an extra donation of £10. As Christopher says: "An investment with us is thus also an investment in the well-being of others less fortunate."

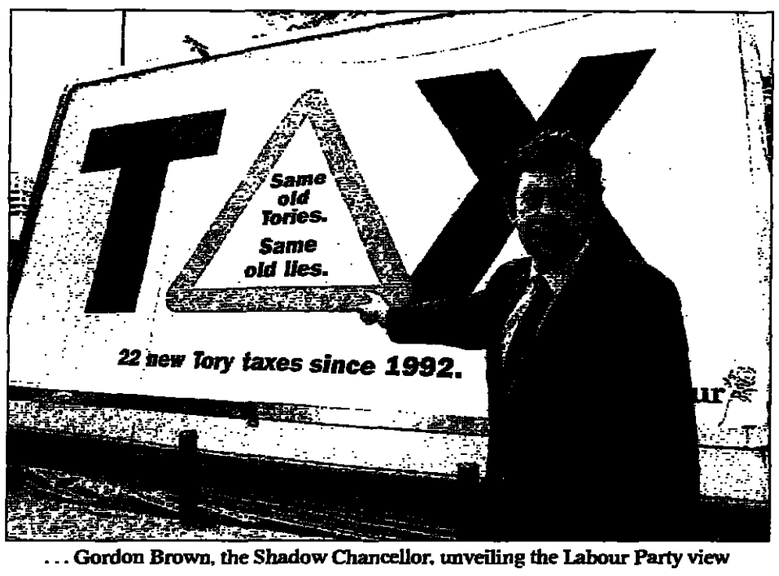
AN ATTRACTIVE advertisement stands out in this month's edition of What Investment *magazine. It promises: "Peps with proven performance." It goes on: "Morgan Grenfell has a range of top-performing Peps to suit your individual needs . . .*

Beware politicians bearing beguiling tax-cutting gifts

New research suggests lower taxes are not feasible, says Janet Bush



Promises promises: Tory poster proclaiming the average family is £700 better off . . .



. . . Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, unveiling the Labour Party view

Paddy Ashdown, whose Liberal Democrats convene in Brighton for their annual conference next week, recently accused the Conservatives and Labour of playing games on tax and treating people with contempt in the process.

As the two main parties horse-trade tax-cutting promises, Mr Ashdown has offered the British public two tax increases. There is the long-standing Liberal Democrat promise to raise the basic rate of income tax by 1p to pay for increased spending on education, and a more recent pledge to impose a new 50p in the pound top tax rate for anyone earning £100,000 or more a year. This, he has promised, would pay to take 750,000 low-paid out of the tax net.

It is, of course, relatively painless to talk of higher taxes when your party has no hope of winning an election. But it is refreshing to hear a little bit of honesty on the subject from a political leader. Mr Ashdown's contention that the two main parties are playing fast and loose with public expectations on tax is given ample support from new research by the Ernst & Young ITEM Club, commissioned by Channel 4 News.

The ITEM Club, the only private-sector organisation to use the Treasury's economic model, has calculated the effect of various combinations of taxation and spending under both a Tory and a New Labour government over the next five years. The message is deeply unwelcome to both as they gear up for the election, determined to make tax a key issue.

The new calculations clearly show that, only by keeping taxes where they are currently (and that is still a net £12 billion higher than when the Norman Lamont-Kenneth Clarke double act had to raise them to pay for the costs of recession) and freezing public spending in real terms for the next few years, will the public finances return to anywhere near balance in the foreseeabe future. Paul Droop, the ITEM Club's chief economist, said: "These figures give a very clear message — that it is far, far too soon to be talking about reducing the tax burden on the country. The public sector is not paying its way at the moment and is not likely to for the next five years."

For the Conservative Party, the message is that tax cuts in November and in any new five-year term should not be contemplated if the Chancellor is to achieve his aim of restoring the public finances to balance in the medium term. Neither the party's pledge finally to achieve a 20p lower income tax band nor the long-term abolition of capital gains and inheritance tax are compatible with its fiscal aims, without further large real cuts in public spending.

For New Labour, there is no way that it can achieve its tax promises — an eventual 10p tax band for the low-paid and the abolition of 8 per cent VAT on domestic fuel — as well as sustainability in the public finances, without huge cuts in public spending.

The ITEM Club's first set of calculations assumes that an incoming government — Tory or Labour — delivers no tax cuts and freezes public spending in real terms. In this case, the public sector borrowing requirement reaches virtual balance at £700 million in the financial year 1999-2000. In the next year, the budget would be in surplus to the tune of £5 billion. It then works out what the impact on the public finances would be if the parties managed to freeze growth in public spending but delivered their main tax promises in a phased way.

For the Conservatives, the assumption is that the 20p tax band is achieved in three further stages, with 2p off the basic rate in November and further cuts of 1p in 1997 and 1998. Under this scenario, a Conservative government would fail to achieve budget balance by the end of the century. The ITEM Club reckons that the PSBR would still be £8.3 billion in 1999-2000 and £2.8 billion in 2000-01.

For Labour, the assumption is that the 10p tax band is achieved in stages by 1999 and that VAT on fuel is abolished. However, the calculations also assume that Labour sticks with already published Conservative privatisation plans. Given that this is not likely in real life, this set of calculations has to be regarded as somewhat over-optimistic. In this scenario, the PSBR would still be £11.6 billion in 1999-2000 and £4 billion the next year.

The ITEM Club, however, does not regard either of the above assumptions as realistic because the idea of any government — whether Conservative or Labour — managing to freeze public spending for years on end simply flies in the face of historical reality. Mr Droop notes that, over the past 25 years, public spending has shown real average annual growth of 1.5 per cent.

Given this record, the ITEM Club has been generous in its public spending assumptions, pencilling in real growth over the next five years of only 1 per cent per annum. Along with current tax promises, this leaves both Conservatives and Labour badly adrift on the public finances.

Assuming a 20p tax band and some growth in public spending, the Conservatives would face a PSBR in 1999-2000 of some £16.7 billion and £13.6 billion in 2000-01.

For Labour, similar growth in public spending is assumed, together with the achievement of a 10p tax band and the abolition of VAT on fuel, with an additional assumption that Labour will not go ahead with current Conservative plans to cut capital spending. This leaves Labour in an even worse position than its rivals with a PSBR in 1999-2000 of £21.2 billion.

It could be argued that neither total is too onerous a burden for the economy as both come well under the Maastricht treaty limit of 3 per cent of gross domestic product. And, in both the Tory and Labour scenarios, inflation rises to only 4.1 per cent, in spite of years of relatively strong economic growth, and unemployment falls to near 1.5 million.

Nevertheless, neither party could boast of being the party of sound public finances with public borrowing at these multi-billion levels after eight years of uninterrupted economic growth. And neither can justify their tax-cutting election campaigns.

PSBR 1999/2000: FIVE POSSIBLE OPTIONS

CONSERVATIVES AND LABOUR: No real spending growth. No tax cuts	£700 million
CONSERVATIVES: No real spending growth. 20p tax band	£8.3 billion.
LABOUR: No real spending growth. 10p tax band. Abolish VAT on fuel.	£11.6 billion.
CONSERVATIVES: Spending up 1 per cent a year. 20p tax band.	£16.7 billion.
LABOUR: Spending up 1 per cent a year. 10p tax band. Abolish VAT on fuel. Doesn't go ahead with Conservative capital spending cuts.	£21.2 billion.

Telephone call sparked quest for millions

Jason Nissé on the struggle to protect Maxwell pensioners as funds vanished

The voice on the telephone sounded worried. "There seems to be something wrong with the pension fund," it said. "There's a black hole."

The call came in late November 1991, just a few weeks after Robert Maxwell's death. The caller was a banker who was a huge lender to the late publisher's empire, and it was the moment when the bankers trying to put together a rescue knew there was no hope.

At first they thought £50 million was missing, then £100 million, and then the full horror became apparent. More than £400 million of pension fund assets had gone missing — not stolen, it seems, as no one has ever been found guilty of fraud or theft. More than 30,000 employees and former employees of the Maxwell empire found their future and current pensions under threat.

Action was swift. Kevin and Ian Maxwell were dismissed as directors of Mirror Group Newspapers and Maxwell Communication Corporation, and resigned as pension fund trustees. Robson Rhodes, the accountants, were made trustees of the companies that ran the pension funds and, with Stephenson Harwood, the lawyers, began the long task of trying to fill the gap.

> Former MI5 agent persuaded firms to give £276m

The first success was to persuade National Westminster Bank to hand back nearly £30 million of shares in Teva Pharmaceutical, of Israel, pledged as collateral for loans made to private companies run by Kevin Maxwell a matter of days after Robert Maxwell's death. They turned out to belong to the pension fund, not the private companies.

Then Kevin Maxwell was made bankrupt, having been found by the civil courts to be liable for the whole amount missing from the funds. However, little was recovered from him.

Mirror Group agreed to guarantee pensions for its current and former employees at a cost of £140 million. Though this reduced the worries of about 15,000 pensioners, the rest still fretted about their future.

A series of legal actions were begun against various companies that had ended up with assets from the pension funds or had handled them along the route out of the funds and into bankers' hands. A few settled. Bank of America was the first, handing over £25 million in January 1994. It was swiftly followed by Invesco, the fund manager, which paid £11 million, and Capel-Cure Myers and Lehman Brothers, two securities firms, which handed over £6 million and £15 million, respectively. None of the four admitted any liability.

Meanwhile, under the guidance of Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, a quasi-governmental body was set up to try to broker a settlement. Sir John Cuckney, the former MI5 agent and chairman of 3i, was put in charge of the so-called Maxwell Pension Unit.

After three years of work, he was able to persuade a handful of City firms that had dealt with Maxwell to donate £276 million to the pension funds in exchange for an agreement not to continue or issue any legal actions in connection with the affair. The largest known contributors were two US firms, Goldman Sachs, which paid £75 million, and Lehman, giving £50 million, though Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm, is known to have donated a substantial sum. In addition, the Government gave a £115 million interest-free loan to the funds, which means they are now fully covered and can pay all pensions in full.

Since then, Credit Suisse, the Swiss bank, has handed over £3 million to settle another legal action, taking the total recovered by the pension fund trustees to £390 million. One action is still outstanding, a £30 million writ against Banque Nationale de Paris.

Though at no time were pensions not paid, more than 1,000 pensioners died not knowing whether their pension funds were fully covered. When the pension settlement was struck last year, Ken Trench, of the Maxwell Pensioners' Action Group, said: "That returned things to equilibrium and saved the pensioners in financial terms. But no one should underestimate the four years of mental turmoil they suffered."

Sony casts around for new plot after Hollywood flops

Pity poor Sony. After seven years in Hollywood it has lost more than $3 billion, produced a string of flops and precious few hits, and seems unable to find a way out of the morass.

Alan Levine, head of Sony Pictures, which includes the Columbia Tri-Star studio, is likely to lose his job, following a stream of senior executives out of the door. The question is: Can Sony ever make a success of its Hollywood white elephant or is it doomed to perpetual failure?

The latest executive sacking came this week with the departure of Mark Canton, chairman of Columbia Tri-Star. Under his brief chairmanship, the studios had produced box-office failures such as *The Fan* (with Robert DeNiro), the *Cable Guy* (whose star, Jim Carrey, was paid $20 million) and *Multiplicity*. Hollywood insiders said he was a bad appointment since he had no feel for what audiences really wanted. Yet he is departing with a pay-off of around $15 million.

Sony immediately added to its embarrassment by publicly bungling the hiring of the highly respected Hollywood agent, Arnold Rifkin, who rejected the job. Instead, Sony appointed, as a vice-chairman, Lucy Fisher, who perhaps wisely has refused to accept the title of full chairwoman.

That, however, was only the latest round of executive musical chairs. Earlier in the summer, Mr Levin fired the presidents of Columbia and Tri-Star. Meanwhile, Mr Canton's pay-off is small beer compared to the $200 million



Jim Carrey in *Cable Guy*: $20 million pay cheque

predecessor, who was ousted two years ago after an equally disastrous series of dud films. And last year Micky Schulhof, famed for his extravagance, was ousted as head of Sony's North American operations.

Mr Levin, an entertainments lawyer who had never run a company, was given the task of reigning in the lavish spending and sorting out Sony Picture's finances after Guber. He has successfully fulfilled this task but shows no aptitude for picking or promoting hit films and insiders believe it is a storyline that has never really had any high points. Sony bought Columbia in 1989 for $5 billion with the idea that it would generate entertainment software to match its hardware. Believing that only Americans understood Hollywood, it watched in horror as high-spending US executives poured money into an apparently bottomless pit with hardly a hit film to show for it. In 1994 Sony had to write off $2.7 billion.

The disastrous foray into films was mirrored by equally music division. It became embroiled in the long-running legal action with George Michael, one of its biggest-selling stars, who claimed Sony was stifling him artistically. It also spent some $30 million promoting Michael Jackson's less than successful *HiStory* album.

Recently, Sony's attitude towards its wayward US entertainment divisions has hardened. With the appointment of Idei Nobuyuki last year as head of the Sony Corporation in Japan, the company has begun taking a firmer hand. Mr Nobuyuki is determined to get the operation to make serious profits.

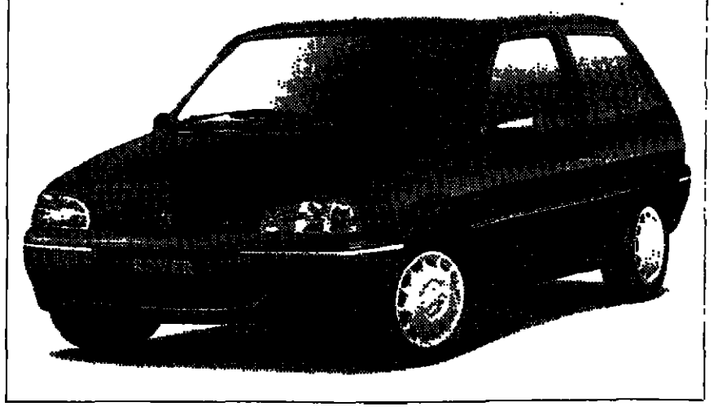
In terms of Sony's $49 billion in world sales, the US entertainment losses are relatively insignificant. But the group is intensely aware of its image, and its Hollywood foray has been nothing but a profound embarrassment. The question Mr Nobuyuki must now be pondering is whether Sony can ever make Columbia Tri-Star work. He has been talking to experts such as Michael Eisner at Disney, and Barry Diller, the TV mogul, but, in the short term, he needs strong managers for Sony Pictures, and a formula that works.

In the longer term, he may conclude that Sony does not need entertainment software — particularly if it cannot make the business pay. In that case, Columbia may be put up for sale and, more than likely, more senior executives will find themselves out of a job. As a plot denouement, it would have a certain poetic justice.

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Blagden restores interim

Blagden Industries, the packaging and chemicals company, is restoring its interim dividend at 1p a share (1995 — nil) after lifting pre-tax profits to £7.4 million from £4.2 million in the half year to June 30. Earnings rose to 7p a share from 3.7p.

David Kendall, chairman, said the turnround programme from the time of a restructuring in May 1994 was now largely complete. In spite of some increase in the pressure on margins, the second half would confirm the company's recovery. The shares rose 10p to 195p.

Daniels rises

S Daniels, the food manufacturing and distribution company, earned pre-tax profits of £81,000 in the six months to June 30 (£3.1 million loss). Earnings were 0.3p a share (36.7p loss). There is an interim dividend of 0.1p (nil). The company has disposed of three of its original businesses and completed its first acquisition.

Avesta loss

About 85 jobs are to be lost with the closure of the steelworks of Avesta Sheffield at Panteg, South Wales. Production is to move to British Steel's works at Stocksbridge. Avesta Sheffield said its cold rolling business at Panteg, with 200 staff, was unaffected.

RMC hurt by decline in Germany

BY KEITH RODGERS

PRE-TAX profits at RMC, the building materials group, dropped 26.5 per cent to £95.8 million in the first half as weak European economies and severe weather conditions took their toll.

The company was hit hard in Germany, its largest market, where trading profit fell from £65.2 million to £28 million on turnover down from £882.2 million to £732.7 million. RMC gave warning that the second half would also be weak in Germany and a gentle decline in volumes is expected in 1997.

Hopes of a recovery in UK house building were also dashed in the first half and infrastructure investment declined further, contributing to an overall fall in UK trading profit of 14.7 per cent. However, Peter Young, the chief executive, said that prices remained firm.

Although the company expects an improvement in the second half, the results prompted a downgrading in the full-year projections of several analysts, with BZW dropping its forecast from £300 million to £285 million. One analyst suggested the figures were broadly in line with expectations, but the mix of results was different, with the German performance lower than expected.

Group turnover fell 5.1 per cent to £2114.9 million, while earnings per share decreased 28.6 per cent on the previous year's adjusted figure to 22.2p. The company has declared a slightly increased dividend of 7.8p per share, payable on November 29.

The results included £3.5 million redundancy costs, which are likely to increase in the second half.

Elsewhere in Europe, Austria was hit by severe weather, the French construction industry continues to deteriorate, but profits increased in Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

The US operation, which will be the third-largest contributor to the group this year, saw substantially increased profits. However, profits in Israel remained flat. Mr Young said the company had set up a "toe-in-the-water" joint venture in India and Jordan, and was still looking to move into Malaysia.

Profits climbed at the company's Great Mills DIY stores, but conditions were tough in its builders merchants chain. The company indicated that it was keeping an eye on events at Wickes, the DIY retailer.

Gearing fell from 47.3 per cent to 35.9 per cent, and the company expects it to fall to 30 per cent over the year unless it makes a major acquisition.

Tempus, page 26

DAVID HOWELLS



Maurice Warren, left, chairman of Camas, and Alan Shearer, chief executive

Camas suffers setback

BY MARTIN BARROW

CAMAS, the construction materials company, is holding its interim dividend at 1.25p after suffering a decline in pre-tax profits to £4.9 million, from £6.7 million, in the six months to June 30.

The company said that a strong performance in America had partially offset the adverse effect of a difficult UK market but could not prevent a decline in group operating profits to £6.5 million, from £9.2 million. Turnover was little changed at £192.4 million, against £196.3 million.

Profits from European activities, including the UK, fell to £9.5 million, from £13.3 million, after a charge of £2 million against further rationalisation to match capacity to a changing market. American operations made a strong start to the year after the winter shutdown and the operating loss of £1 million was £1.2 million less than in the previous first half.

Alan Shearer, chief executive, said that UK aggregate and asphalt volumes would remain subdued in the absence of an improvement in housebuilding and with a continuation of reduced spending on roads. Aggregate prices remain firm in all Camas's markets and the operation continued to benefit from cuts in the cost base made in the period and in past years.

Earnings per share fell to 1.1p, from 1.53p. The interim dividend is due on December 2.

In 1995, LG's annual sales grew 40% to over US$64 billion.



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Albright shines on despite high costs

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the speciality chemicals group, defied continuing high raw material costs to deliver improved interim profits.

The company, the world's biggest producer of purified phosphoric acid, lifted pre-tax profits 6 per cent to £32 million in the six months to June 30.

Robin Paul, chief executive, said raw material costs added £43 million to bills in 1995 as a whole and had added £6 million in the first half as prices failed to fall back as the company had hoped.

A number of one-off factors will limit the performance of the company's phosphates division in the second half. It will have to buy in sulphuric acid for its plant in Mexico during the refurbishment of its own sulphuric plant. The temporary closure will cost £1 million in the second half. Higher Chinese phosphorous prices will also have an impact.

Total restructuring charges may be as much as £3.5 million in the full year. The company said that growth in the division should resume in 1997.

Material costs in the surfactants division, which makes wetting and foaming agents for detergents and toiletries, were relatively stable during the period, with cost-cutting and improved volumes helping operating profits to rise to £5.6 million (£1.8 million). Lower raw material costs also helped speciality chemicals to boost operating profits 7.9 per cent to £8.2 million.

The group's gearing stood at 14 per cent. Earnings per share were 15 per cent up at 7.5p and the interim dividend has been lifted to 2.25p (2.15p), payable on November 21.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Benjamin Priest boosts Alumasc

PROFITS at Alumasc Group, the engineering and construction products company, rose to £14.1 million before tax in the year to June 30, from £11.2 million in the previous 12 months. The rise was helped by a maiden contribution from Benjamin Priest, which was acquired in October 1995 for £35 million. Earnings were 24.3p a share, rising from an adjusted 21.9p previously. The dividend is increased to 8p a share from 7.04p, with a 5.55p final. The shares rose 10p, to 410p, yesterday.

With the addition of the ten businesses that comprised the Benjamin Priest group, the company's product mix has changed, with the engineering sector accounting for two thirds of turnover and construction for one third. John McCall, chairman, said that Alumasc was set to benefit from the anticipated upturn in private construction and industrial investment, although market conditions would result in a contraction of the beer container business.

United Carriers recovers

UNITED CARRIERS GROUP, the parcels and freight company, has returned to profit, earning £750,000 before tax in the half year to June 30. Losses were £1.4 million before tax in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 1.9p a share, against losses of 5.6p previously. The shares rose 4½p to 94½p yesterday. The company said the outcome for the full year depended largely upon volumes during the busy autumn period. Results for the second half so far are in line with forecasts.

Ricardo pays the same

RICARDO GROUP, the automotive design and testing company, is holding its total dividend at 6.3p a share in spite of suffering a decline in pre-tax profits to £4.7 million, from £6.16 million, in the year to June 30. The latest results included a £1.45 million charge against discontinued operations. Earnings per share fell to 5.9p, from 9p. The final dividend is held at 4.3p a share, payable on November 29. The company said that its year-end order position was satisfactory. The shares fell 10p, to 115p.

New Ireland lifts payout

STIFF competition in the home and car insurance market resulted in a drop in interim profits for New Ireland Holdings, the insurance group based in Dublin. For the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits slipped to Ir£4.95 million from Ir£5.28 million. Earnings dropped to Ir26.7p from Ir27.7p, but the company declared a 10.1 per cent increase in the interim dividend to Ir4.67p, payable on October 16. Life assurance and pensions business both recorded strong growth. The company said the results were satisfactory in a competitive environment.

Power station inquiry

PLANS by PowerGen to build a gas-fired power station on part of a former steelworks at Gartcosh will go to a public inquiry, Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, announced yesterday. The inquiry, which comes after an objection by North Lanarkshire Council, is expected to be held early next year. Mr Forsyth's consent is required for construction of any power station of more than 50 megawatts generating capacity. However, an application objected to by the relevant planning authority must be considered by a public inquiry.

IBC raises profits

IBC Group, the publishing and conferences company, said it remained "cautiously optimistic" after reporting a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £7.2 million in the half-year to June 30. Earnings rose 13 per cent to 14.8p a share. The interim dividend is increased to 3.3p a share from 3p, due November 11. After disposal of the mainly low-margin consumer newsletters, overall publishing margins improved to 21 per cent (15 per cent) and the publishing division earned operating profits of £2.39 million (£1.41 million).

Deltron value £27.6m

DELTRON Electronics, the specialist electronics company, will be capitalised at £27.6 million when it achieves a full stock market listing via its share placing this month. The company, with operations in Britain and France, distributes and manufactures switches, filters, alarms, connectors, security products and electronic point-of-sale equipment. Directors forecast pre-tax profits of £2.24 million in the current financial year, a 79 per cent increase over the previous 12 months.

Spandex ahead

SPANDEX, the supplier of materials to the signmaking industry, achieved a 12.5 per cent increase in its pre-tax profits, up to £4.5 million from £4 million, in the half-year to June 30. Earnings per share advanced 12 per cent, to 8.6p. An interim dividend of 1.1p a share, up from 1p, is due to be paid on January 10. The company said that its £1.5 million acquisition of ND Graphic Products in Canada, announced in April, had significantly extended its operations outside Europe.

Era optimistic

ERA GROUP, the retail and distribution company that owns the Beatties chain of toy shops, said that there was some indication that the "feel-good" factor is starting to appear, auguring well for the key Christmas trading period. The company incurred an increase in pre-tax losses, to £2.57 million from £1.78 million, in the six months to June 30. Losses were 1.49p a share, against 1.05p last time. The company does not pay an interim dividend.

Go-Ahead and Victory win Thames Trains franchise

BY FRASER NELSON

GO-AHEAD GROUP, the bus operator, has won its joint bid for the Thames Trains franchise, promising to operate free from government subsidy within eight years.

The network, which carries Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, into work each morning, will be co-owned and entirely run by its old management. Go-Ahead plans to take a hands-off attitude to the business, Victory Railway Holdings, although it is providing £8.43 million of the £9.5 million needed to support the bid.

This is being paid by a loan note of £4.05 million, £130,000 in share subscription and a peformance bond of £4.25 million. Go-Ahead retains a 65 per cent stake in Victory.



Salmon: subsidy pledge

Roger Salmon, franchising director, said the Government would subsidise the service, starting with £31.7 million for the first year, until March 31, 2004 when Victory's franchise runs out. Go-Ahead is funding the £8.43 million by borrowings of £1.49 million and by placing £6.94 million of shares with institutions at 305p each.

Its shares shot up 56p, to an all-time high of 373½p yesterday, buoyed by its strong results for the year to June 30. Having recovered from the effects of a price war with Thames Transit, its Oxford bus rival, it turned in full-year pre-tax profits of £11.1 million (£8.5 million). Earnings were 24.6p (21.9p) per share, and a final dividend of 3.7p, payable on November 28, makes a total 5.55p (4.8p).

The Thames Trains network runs from Hereford to London's Paddington station and Gatwick Airport. Victory said it will double the frequency of trains between Oxford and Paddington.

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Earlier gains halved

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	419	Allied Domecq	466	- 3½	4.3	17.6
675	580	Bulmer (HP)	636½	-12½	5.1	16.0
151	90½	Burn Stewart	94½		6.5	13.4
775	615	Glenmorangie A	775		1.9	19.9
491½	411	Grand Met	479	- 6	4.0	20.3
493	435	Guinness	463½	- 1	4.0	19.1
318	315	Highland Dist	346½	- 1	2.3	16.2
803	342½	Matthew Clark	357½	- 6	8.4	17.6
141	93	Morrison (W)	133		4.6	11.7
2612½	1606½	SA Breweries	1650		2.2	

BANKS

5716½	3743½	ABN AMRO	3825	+ 9½	3.9	12.5
663	528	Abbey Nat	636	+ 5	4.6	11.6
385	315	Allied Irish	380½	+ ½	4.7	10.9
756½	585	Anz Nmg Z	753	+ 4½	5.2	9.7
5443½	3843½	Bank Amerikrat	5382½			
316	227½	Bank Scotland	280	+ 2	3.3	17.0
956½	692	Barclays	950	+ 1½	3.7	10.4
495	413	BK of Ireland	495	+ ½	3.8	11.3
482	379	Cater Allen	416½		9.0	12.4
5668½	4031½	Citicorp	5662½			
392	318	Close Bros	347½		3.5	15.2
6157½	4131½	Commerzbk	6155½	- 93½	3.5	
1350	1060½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1103½	+ 3½	0.5	
3413½	2950	Deutsche Bk	3106½	+ 12½	2.5	
4086½	5939	Espirito Santo	8086½	+ 6½	4.4	10.8
1507	1177½	Fuji Bank ¥	1254	+ 18½	0.6	
427	327½	Gerard Nat	427½		8.8	10.4
267½	196	Hutchinsn	260½	+ ½	3.6	
1189½	931	HSBC	1209	+ 24	3.9	11.4
1178	938	HSBC HKd	1176½	+ 2	4.0	11.1
448½	365	Irish Perm	448½	+ 4	3.2	12.3
177	143	King Shaxson	168½		6.7	14.6
456	405	Leopold Jt	455		5.4	16.5
401	294½	Lloyds TSB	391	- 6	3.3	16.6
653	566	Nat Bk	626½	+ 2½	4.9	11.0
711	609½	Nat Westm	681	- 2½	4.9	9.7
66	49½	Rea Brothers	60		3.3	21.0
596	468	Rpt Bk Scot	487	- 2½	4.4	10.8
1462½	1165	Schroders	1390		1.6	15.6
1137½	890	Schroders N/V	1092½	- 5	4.3	18.5
134	99½	Seagus & Fried	127½		4.2	9.3
779	547	Standd Chartd	716½	- 5	3.1	14.0
195½	89½	Unigrd	114		3.1	12.3
1174½	1131½	Wells Fargo	1164½			
329½	264	Westpac	322½	- 5½	4.4	9.8
360	268	Westpac	345		4.5	17.3

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

90	36	Abrdn Cn Hrz	70			5.9
387	263	Accor Hldgs	329½			12.5
846½	702	Bass	796	+ 4	3.7	17.1
70	40	Bet for the Bir	53½	+ 4	3.5	16.1
177	161	Burtonwd Brw	169		4.1	16.1
126½	92	City Centre Rest	126	+ 2	1.6	29.7
621	463	Compass Gp	560½	+ 7	1.8	36.7
356	190	Eldridge P 'A'	264	- 1½	4.2	27.7
649	413	Fuller Sm 'A'	457½	- 10	2.5	15.6
636	546	Greenalls Grp	564½	+ 5½	3.2	15.6
671	567½	Greene King ▼	643½	- 1	3.0	16.1
265	190	Grosvenor Inns	209½	- ½	3.5	22.3
2568	2044	Groupe Chez Ger	2311½	- 14	3.9	20.7
387	287	Hardy Nthrn	387	- ½	4.3	11.1
3475	3000	Hilton	3400	+ 34½	2.3	16.3
72	45	Inn Business	70½	- ½	1.0	21.1
355	306	Marchfield	306½	- 2½	2.4	14.9
3535½	275	Minster Thmp	2795½	+ 4	3.1	12.0
673	535	Mowlem	602½	- 2½	3.5	18.2
154	118	My Kinda Town	148	-	2.5	14.6
7¼	4½	Paramount	5½	- 1	5.0	4.8
170½	123	Pelican Grp	170½	+ 1	1.5	23.3
4507½	217	Pizza Express	443	- 5	0.8	
428	345	Ramsdens (H)	417½		1.5	44.8
1555	1381½	Regent Inns	1395½	+ 9	0.8	37.1
700	601	Scot & Newc	669½	+ 3	3.6	23.1
365	188	Tom Cobleigh	228½	- 1	1.5	20.6
313	259½	Vaux Group	268	- ½	5.0	13.4
1056	840	Wetherspoon JD	1038	+ 5	1.1	
799	671	Whitbread	781		4.0	14.9
696	578	Wolverhmpn D	617½	+ 9	3.2	14.1
407	297	Yates Bros	364	+ 3	1.2	26.7
620	425	Young A'	545		2.9	25.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

33	15	AAF Indc	18½	- 3		
202	135	Abbeyn	202		3.5	
295	212½	Alfcn	280½		3.0	19.0
121	87½	Amec	105½	- ½	3.6	17.5
177	127	Amey	167½		2.7	15.5
496	333	Anderson Strthc	485	+ 10	2.5	16.5
222½	152	Ashtead	220		1.7	24.0
56	28	Avenside	35½			3.5
34½	24	Bailey (Ben) Cow	30½		4.3	12.3
58	34	Barcrft	53½		3.7	
216	219	Barrat Devs	270½	- 1½	3.6	21.0
213	166	Beazer Homes	177	- 2	4.2	14.3
344	269	Bellway	342½	- 1	2.8	17.0
21	12½	Bellwinch	16			
1462½	1165	Berkeley Grp	1390		1.6	15.6
1137½	890	Bilfinger&Berg	1092½	- 5	4.3	18.5
134	99½	Bovis	127½		4.2	9.3
779	547	Brasnd Chartd	716½	- 5	3.1	14.0
195½	89½	Brngtn	114		3.1	12.3
1174½	1131½	Wells Fargo	1164½			
329½	264	Westpac	322½	- 5½	4.4	9.8
360	268	Wimpey	345		4.5	17.3

BUILDING MATERIALS

15	5½	Alfaughton ▼	6			
390½	284	BPB Ind	375		3.2	18.6
124	91	Buggerbgr Brk	113½		3.4	21.8
47	31	Burdon	34½		4.2	15.0
65	45½	Blockleys	53½	-		
193	132	Blue Circle ▼	181½	- ½	4.1	28.4
97	77	Brendon PLC	93		6.4	15.5
130	108	Br Dredging	121½	- 1	5.8	14.1
673	473	CRH	627½	- ½	1.6	16.8
48	32½	Cakebread Rbyt	40½		6.2	11.4
173	140	Cape	153½		9.0	
2571½	1950½	Caradon	2421½	+ 9½	5.8	28.6
157	106	Caradon pf	147½	+ 1½	7.4	
50	19	Chrchtwn Grp	43½		4.3	10.5
215	158	Dyson (JB&J)	202½		2.8	16.0
93	70	Dyson A	90	+ 1½	6.2	21.1
258	200	Epwrth	211		5.3	15.9
19½	12½	Fmc	139½			15.4
95	52	Gibbs & Dandy	84		5.6	8.6
209	124	Graham Grp	129	+ ½	5.1	25.0
506	345½	Hadstead (J)	488	- ½	4.3	14.9
321	253	Hepworth	288½	- ½	6.4	15.1
66	36	Hornerstn	60		5.2	13.6
2562½	215	Hoyland Wtn	2413½		3.8	9.5
79	60	Ibstock	65		3.8	12.0
500	338	Johnston	484½		4.5	12.0
88	66	Lilleshall	69½		8.7	11.1
155	111	Marley	129	+ ½	4.6	16.9
184	131	Marshalls	141		4.6	12.3
471	348	Meyer Int	412½	- ½	3.2	19.7
149	112½	Newman Tnks	142½		7.7	20.0
106	83	Norcros	91	- ½		63.4
39	16	Phoenix Timber	32		1.1	
253	175	Pilkington	195	- 3½	3.2	11.4
306½	215½	Polypipe	198	- 1	1.9	16.8
1196½	928	RMC Gp	1110½	- 42	3.9	17.6
4581	350	Ransome	455½	- 9½	4.6	17.4
125	84½	Rentokil	99½		1.0	96.1
153	97	Rutland	99½		7.7	9.6
140	102	Rugby Group	109½		4.2	28.1
131	101½	Russell (A)	102½		3.3	18.9
261½	196	Sig	261½	+ 1	3.2	13.1
240	194	Sandtft	232			
273	221	Scapa	257½	+ ½	3.1	15.4
76	56	Swedfte Spcalt	72½		3.5	8.6
2159½	903½	Tarmac Crete	1186	- 9½	0.7	17.7
1155½	868	Wheatcrofte ▼	837½	+ 5	3.7	15.3
156	118	Yorks Grit	146	- ½	4.4	13.9
396	250	Yorks Grit	366½		2.6	19.2
394	302	Yule Catto	389½			

DISTRIBUTORS

121	85½	AB Ltc	86½		6.3	10.3
465	365	Adam & Harvey	367½	- 2½	6.6	6.6
18	14	Alexandrs	15½		9.0	9.9
113	79	Applegreen	86½		2.1	
4	3	Ass Br Engl	3½		4.9	16.6

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

515	426	Bemrose	515½	+ 1	3.9	17.6
25½	18	Bidgood Gp	25			
213	76	Bnd Fittings	97½	- 1	4.9	11.0
290	165	Caliyn	266		5.9	22.6
Nil	165	Cavendish	175	- 5	3.1	8.9
167½	75	Charles Sykes	162½		6.5	12.7
78	54½	Cmpt (UK)]	70½		3.7	8.6
493½	276½	Cowie ▼	386	- ½	5.5	13.4
175	129½	Dng Motor	170½	- 3	8.1	8.4
160	129½	Dennis B	142½		2.3	14.3
324	259	Dpsons	312½		9.1	12.0
497	328	Dr Sweetmans	468	- 1½	2.1	25.0
274	172	Eurotc Elect	189½	- 1½	3.2	18.2
134	65	Exactcls	132½	- 1	4.2	18.9
91	37½	Glenchewmnt	103		6.3	11.6
375	282	Fmn. Hutchsn	353½	- 1	5.1	11.1
97	46	Fdr Instrmt]	49½		8.3	7.4
258	248	Tunstall Grp	316½		2.5	
31½	16½	Gardner	31		3.5	12.4
91	37½	Glenchewmnt	89½		2.5	20.5
91	72½	Goomsy	74		4.7	12.4
101	87	Harnett	92		8.7	
297	216	Harvy (Philip)	260½		3.9	19.6
395½	230½	Headlam	391½	- 2	2.2	24.0
1501	152	Hobbs, Tecnt	176½		4.2	16.8
416	291	Indsclos	302½	- 2½	9.8	
72	53	Jacks (Wm)	72½		5.5	26.8
350	167	Kwik-Fit	232½	- 10½	2.8	18.6
399½	299	Lin Services	397½		5.1	12.1
155	119	Lonbrest	120½		8.3	7.7
17	10½	Mdnys Grp	12	-	6.0	12.4
9½	5½	Middlesex ▽	7½	-	1.3	11.1
47	31	Midlestrest	42	- ½	0.7	
565	468	Norbsnd	480	- 15	2.0	14.0
369½	290	Northernbrd	369½		10.1	10.6
162½	110	PCTC	135½		7.7	11.7
341½	272	Pendragon	320		3.8	15.5
211	145	Perry Gp	182½		6.9	9.1
745	602	Pearson Farnell	668½	- 5½	2.6	17.8
180	135	Qlocks Group	160½		5.7	12.0
315	185	REAL	238		2.2	29.2
3	1	Reece	2½			
95	57	Ronson ▼	76½		7.1	9.1
7	2½	Ross Gp	3½			
56	46½	SEP Instrt	53		3.9	11.4
106	98	Salter	105		12	34.0
392½	246	Time Product	382	- 9½	3.3	
41	30	Tokns Hse	39½		4.3	18.5
123	104	USM20	267½	- 5	2.6	23.5
332½	263½	Vardy (Prgh)	307½		3.7	16.3
463½	375	Wholesale Figs	457½		3.6	19.1
58	36½	Witchnwd	38½	+ 1½	2.7	10.4
140	75½	Wyleux	140		2.0	
133	104	Young (H)	123½		4.0	11.4

ENGINEERING

363	277	AMI	321	+ 1½	2.1	17.5
98½	58	APV	87½	-	5.1	
69	55	ASW	61½		4.1	
457	380	Alumasc	410	+ 10	2.5	
175	107	Alnlet	139½	- 1½	2.3	8.1
201	164½	Ash & Lacy	164½		5.1	13.6
838	638	Atlas Equip	825½		5.7	17.2
148	105½	Aysham Metal	110½		5.7	8.5
762	469	Avtrprt	750		0.6	24.8
330	270	BICC	315½	- 1	5.0	
223	175	Beales Hunter	181	+ 1	7.4	8.3
558	445	Bisch	529		3.2	14.6
464	383	Bowthorpe	436½	+ 2½	2.8	18.2
24½	13½	Bdgin (AF) 'A'	14		4.0	5.7
133	99½	CAE Mcnt	115½	+ 1	6.5	18.1
39	24	Channel Hldgs	30½	- ½	5.7	10.2
36	23½	Charlotte	34½		1.6	29.2
82	66	Clayhithe	74½		5.8	8.2
50	35½	Cray Elect	38	+ 1		
962	6539	Critchley	8687½		1.5	26.2
849	368	Dasta Br Sys	667½	- 5	0.4	34.3
464	323	Delta	393	+ ½	5.1	35.4
450	340	Dowmac	379		3.4	49.3
95	64	Downing Mills	81	+ ½		
3270	154	Dwnts Eng	266	- 4	5.5	40.1
3843½	2616½	Electrolux 'B'	3818½	+ 46½	3.2	10.5
38½	30½	Exacss	33½		0.8	32.3
1634½	1125	Ericsson 'B'	1634½	+ 37½	1.8	30.0
197	138	McAlpine (A)	157½		5.6	12.5
101	66	McCarthy & S	98½		3.2	12.3
193½	81	Morgan Sndall	175½	- 5	2.3	17.9
177½	122	Morrison Const	177½		3.0	13.5
96	58½	Mowlem (J)	93½	+ 2½	2.7	15.7
242	173	Pennwmroad	214		5.5	22.7
115	85	Pochins	109		1.8	11.0
145	97	Prowsng	130½		3.6	27.7
20	12½	Rams Ind	15½			
157	113	Redhnd	134		3.1	
66	45	Secure Pcire	65½		2.7	23.8
370	258	Sheriff Hldgs	365		3.3	11.2
92	68	Shorcrf	73		7.3	9.7
378	313	Spandex	352½		1.0	20.5
168	115½	Tay Homes	168½		7.4	10.8
182	115	Tinker Wardrw	166	- ½	2.2	17.9
508	408	Tilbury Douglas	500		5.6	14.8
16½	10½	Try Group	12½			
103	74	Vitroprint	78½	- ½	6.4	
111	65	Wimbornes	105		5.4	65.7
53	38	Ward Hidgs	41½		3.0	11.1
233½	170	Westbury	233½		3.2	21.0
9½	4½	Wigpns	8½	- ½		
190	156½	Wilcon (C)	156½	- 2½	3.7	21.6
323	254	Wilcon Boardm	323½	- 4½	2.9	20.1
160	125	Wimpey (G)	129½	+ 3	5.3	

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

562	528½	Acal	531½		2.0	17.7
311	185	Acom Comp	228½	- 1		
303	163½	Admiralt	195		0.8	33.2
218½	134	Amstrad]	140½	- 6	3.3	
52	33	Arbtn	49½	+ ½	2.1	11.7
154½	110	Aslec	144½	- ½	1.4	17.9
762	469	Artsrt	750		0.6	24.8
360	276	BICC	315½	- 1	5.0	
223	175	Beales Hunter	181	+ 1	7.4	8.3
558	445	Bisch	529		3.2	14.6
464	383	Bowthorpe	436½	+ 2½	2.8	18.2
24½	13½	Bdgin (AF) 'A'	14		4.0	5.7
133	99½	CAE Mcnt	115½	+ 1	6.5	18.1
39	24	Channel Hldgs	30½	- ½	5.7	10.2
36	23½	Charlotte	34½		1.6	29.2
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50	35½	Cray Elect	38	+ 1		
962	6539	Critchley	8687½		1.5	26.2
849	368	Dasta Br Sys	667½	- 5	0.4	34.3
464	323	Delta	393	+ ½	5.1	35.4
450	340	Dowmac	379		3.4	49.3
95	64	Downing Mills	81	+ ½		
3270	154	Dwnts Eng	266	- 4	5.5	40.1
3843½	2616½	Electrolux 'B'	3818½	+ 46½	3.2	10.5
38½	30½	Exacss	33½		0.8	32.3
1634½	1125	Ericsson 'B'	1634½	+ 37½	1.8	30.0
197	138	McAlpine (A)	157½		5.6	12.5
101	66	McCarthy & S	98½		3.2	12.3
193½	81	Morgan Sndall	175½	- 5	2.3	17.9
177½	122	Morrison Const	177½		3.0	13.5
96	58½	Mowlem (J)	93½	+ 2½	2.7	15.7
242	173	Pennwmroad	214		5.5	22.7
115	85	Pochins	109		1.8	11.0
145	97	Prowsng	130½		3.6	27.7
20	12½	Rams Ind	15½			
157	113	Redhnd	134		3.1	
66	45	Secure Pcire	65½		2.7	23.8
370	258	Sheriff Hldgs	365		3.3	11.2
92	68	Shorcrf	73		7.3	9.7
378	313	Spandex	352½		1.0	20.5
168	115½	Tay Homes	168½		7.4	10.8
182	115	Tinker Wardrw	166	- ½	2.2	17.9
508	408	Tilbury Douglas	500		5.6	14.8
16½	10½	Try Group	12½			
103	74	Vitroprint	78½	- ½	6.4	
111	65	Wimbornes	105		5.4	65.7
53	38	Ward Hidgs	41½		3.0	11.1
233½	170	Westbury	233½		3.2	21.0
9½	4½	Wigpns	8½	- ½		
190	156½	Wilcon (C)	156½	- 2½	3.7	21.6
323	254	Wilcon Boardm	323½	- 4½	2.9	20.1
160	125	Wimpey (G)	129½	+ 3	5.3	

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

151	109	Admiral	129½		8.3	68.8
295	253	Aerflow Stream	255		4.4	6.8
753½	473	Aeon Rubber	743	- 8	3.0	18.1
101	57½	Aero	100	+ ½	5.0	9.2
353	273	Bastons	281½	+ 3½	3.1	11.5
85	52	Bausbeat]	167½	- ½	7.6	
307	175	BHF	298		1.9	
601	431	Brd Tech]	582½		0.6	19.7
1088½	776	BUPA	1084½	+ 2½	4.3	14.0
3800	2980	Bristol Mfrl	3282½		3.1	
669	497	Bunzl	598	+ 2½	3.0	14.0
1758½	1312½	Bunzl Mstrs	1638½	+ 24½	0.5	
282	206	Lead	251½	+ ½	3.1	16.9
115	68	Caparo Group	100		3.1	14.7
111	80	Carbdesrough	103	- 1	3.3	17.2
948	773	Hamligh Tec©	882½		1.1	29.5
218	156	Cmbn Ind	211		2.2	22.2
3225	2550	Bassett Mfrl	3282½		3.1	
1758½	1312½	Hondo Motor

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 259 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gryland Amer	229.90	239.90	+ 0.50	0.14
Gryland Equity	385.20	369.20	- 0.60	1.62
Gryland Euro	269.60	365.30†	+ 0.40	0.57
Gryland Cpt Bal	132.30	137.10†		2.57
Gryland Gilt	75.55	78.05†	- 0.13	6.18
Gryland Japan	170.20	180.10	+ 1.50	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 251

General Acc	681.00	724.50†		2.57
General Inc	568.30	604.60†		2.57
Uk Growth Acc	465.10	494.80		2.70
UK Growth Inc	385.30	324.80		2.70
Higher Inc Acc	668.50	661.20		4.20
Higher Inc Inc	441.60	469.80†		4.20
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	211.80	223.40†		5.82
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.93	97.84†		5.82
Nth Amerca	387.60	407.30		
Europe	368.30	383.70†		0.37
Pac Excpt	92.12	98.80		2.88
Pac Excpt	92.12	98.80		2.88
Bnd Fedrnts Acc	115.70	123.10†		4.84
Bnd Fedrnts Inc	77.35	82.29†		4.84
Global Opps	105.10	112.90		0.01
Balanced Acc	64.04	68.13	+ 0.12	2.76
Balanced Inc	60.59	64.46	+ 0.14	2.76
Japan Acc	48.24	49.20		
Pac Basin Acc	405.20	432.20		0.98

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

Gilts & Fixed Int	129.85	137.20†	- 0.30	7.11
High Inc Equity	185.60	197.90		4.36
Worldwide Bond	284.60	301.70†	+ 0.40	4.88
American Growth	377.60	403.20	- 1.60	0.31
Asian Pacific	327.30	350.10	+ 0.70	0.04
Assets & Earnings	312.90	334.70	- 0.10	2.69
Euro Capital Acc	186.70	199.70	+ 0.80	0.75
Extra Inc	43.30	46.39†	+ 0.01	7.75
General	265.80	304.00†	- 0.30	2.88
Global Opps	68.36	73.01	+ 0.12	0.54
Japan	148.90	157.20	+ 1.80	
Managed Inc	46.81	51.39†	+ 0.01	4.67
Mastertrust	170.60	182.50	+ 0.30	1.00
US Emerging Cos	218.80	232.60	- 0.20	
Ethical	82.50	88.20	+ 0.14	2.42
International	139.80	149.70	+ 0.60	0.29
Dividend & Growth	68.70	73.09	- 0.01	4.20
Global Gwth & Inc	73.30	78.31	- 0.02	2.34
Latin America	65.65	70.06	+ 0.04	
Capital Reserve	145.30	145.30	- 0.10	4.82

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

UK Small Cos	2365.00	2460.00		

ASTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

Amer Inc & Growth	60.80	63.12	- 0.05	0.15
Emerging Mkts	74.11	78.16	+ 0.23	0.04
Europeat	152.30	159.70	+ 0.20	
Exempt	1119.00	1190.00	+ 1.00	1.56
Extra Income #	46.21	49.43†	+ 0.01	6.58
Far East Emg Ecn	134.30	141.10	+ 0.60	0.44
Fincl Interest #	35.47	36.48†	+ 0.08	8.97
Fixed Int Tst	152.90	160.30	+ 0.30	6.58
Japan	182.90	190.10†	+ 1.00	
Latin American	61.62	64.28†	+ 0.14	0.76
Pacific	86.71	91.05	+ 0.40	0.29
Property Shares	71.97	75.55	- 0.09	3.33
UK Emerging Cos	72.67	78.55	- 0.11	1.23
UK Growth	54.45	57.44	+ 0.14	2.04
Amer World Port #	80.38	84.95	+ 0.19	3.40
Ethical	78.78	81.93		2.15
Abertrust Gilt Inc #	50.90	50.56†	- 0.11	7.33

For AEGON see Matthews

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868

Resdl Property #	98.20	105.40		5.30

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Equity Income	91.59	97.18†	- 0.03	2.55
Income Portfolio Inc	82.38	87.64	+ 0.01	4.19

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA clip: 01793 610 366 Client clip: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	291.20	311.20	+ 1.50	2.89
Capital	518.60	546.10	+ 2.70	2.15
Balanced	538.40	567.30	+ 4.00	3.22
Accumulator	1615.00	1726.00†	+ 8.00	1.81
Income Trusts				
American Income	62.11	66.27††	+ 0.27	2.41
High Income	459.20	483.80	+ 1.90	7.85
Equity Income	251.90	279.90	+ 0.90	3.97
High Yield	283.70	303.30	+ 1.30	3.96
Govt Securities	34.35	36.27†	- 0.01	6.62
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	214.10	228.50†	+ 0.90	0.05
European Growth	54.40	57.96††	+ 0.18	0.07
International	190.80	203.90	+ 1.50	0.11
Japan	205.50	220.70	+ 1.40	
Pacific	419.90	448.80	+ 3.80	
Spec of America	594.00	632.70	+ 2.80	0.12
Wrldwide Accel Val	57.12	61.06†	+ 0.40	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	647.70	692.30	+ 2.40	1.97
Conv & Gilt	49.86	53.10††	+ 0.27	3.97
Smaller Cos	112.00	120.60†	+ 1.20	1.01
2nd Smaller Cos	201.20	215.00†	+ 1.00	0.86
Recovery	172.00	183.60†	+ 0.50	1.54
Mer Min & Cdty	168.40	180.90	+ 0.30	0.17
Disec Exempt	431.60	461.30	+ 2.50	1.05
Technology	1229.50	1405.30	+ 1.70	
Uk Special Sits	583.80	624.00†	+ 1.30	1.00

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 525 911

Colmore Dist Pens	120.10	124.70		3.04
Foundtn Pnsn Pens	71.16	73.93		1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0033

Capital	85.00	90.43	+ 0.26	1.39
International	69.96	74.43		

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

America	347.60	370.90†	- 1.10	
Bond	117.60	123.90	- 0.40	6.74
Brit Smlr Cos	120.90	128.60	- 0.20	1.76
Conv & Gen #	70.58	75.10†	- 0.03	5.21
Europe	290.90	308.40	- 1.40	0.57
Extra Smlr Cos	127.50	135.30	+ 0.10	0.58
Income Gwth	324.80	358.50†	+ 0.90	4.76
Japan	320.40	340.30	+ 2.50	
Latin American	86.58	92.11	+ 0.06	0.77
Pacific	115.60	123.00	+ 0.10	0.97
Uk Smlr Cos	68.41	64.27	+ 0.07	1.24
Japan Fd	671.60	691.20	+ 5.00	
Mngd Fd	207.10	219.90	+ 0.50	2.74

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 488 8573

Bnt & Oseas	375.40	397.00	+ 6.90	0.89
Capital Gwth	131.70	139.30	+ 2.50	2.36
Wrnde Oppt	223.80	236.70	+ 4.10	0.86

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 534 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Bld Inv Fd Inc	435.00	455.00	+ 1.50	2.46
European Bd Inc	98.79	100.20		6.71
Exempt	84.11	88.60	+ 0.06	2.85
500	516.00	563.20†	- 0.60	2.36
General	328.00	351.20†		2.55
Property	244.90	262.80		5.18
Treasine	228.90	244.70	- 0.30	2.39
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.90	100.90		4.95
Distribution 49/	113.20	113.80†	- 0.30	6.92
Extra Income #	139.00	146.40†	- 0.10	4.73
Gilt & Fxd Int	97.95	98.98†	- 0.15	7.91
Income #	582.10	633.30	- 9.80	4.68
Income Builder #	69.08	73.69†	- 0.10	5.38
Intl Income	71.33	75.88	- 0.01	2.71
Growth Trusts - UK				
Cautious	143.50	153.10†	- 0.10	1.96
FTSE 100	181.69	188.30		2.84
Leisure	181.50	194.10	- 0.70	0.68
Recovery	562.10	597.50	- 1.80	2.63
Smlr Cos Inc	89.52	93.83†	- 0.03	2.11
Special Sits	398.50	426.20	- 0.90	1.26
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	174.00	184.70	- 0.50	0.16
F East Dstn Acc	281.30	300.50	+ 1.10	1.85
Far East Distn	168.80	179.70	+ 0.90	1.85
Euro Distn Inc	194.70	206.70†	+ 1.00	0.56
-do- Accum	211.60	224.60	+ 1.00	0.56
Japan	151.30	160.50	+ 1.50	
-do- Accum	153.70	163.10	+ 1.50	
Japan Spec Sits	71.28	75.50	+ 0.68	
Worldwide	200.30	212.60	+ 0.40	0.44

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	134.50	142.10	- 0.10	
Amer Smlr Cos	170.40	180.90	- 1.00	
Convertibles	59.36	84.24†	- 0.05	4.60
Eastern	303.20	321.80	+ 1.20	0.30
Equity Income	99.06	105.00	+ 0.20	4.20
European Growth	363.00	385.60	+ 1.00	0.80
Europe	361.80	385.50	+ 2.40	0.80
German Growth	88.13	94.57	+ 0.19	0.50
Global Bond	70.78	74.46	+ 0.10	5.08
Global Growth	148.80	158.20	+ 0.50	0.40
Japan Growth	197.20	209.80	+ 1.80	
Japan Smaller	164.00	174.20	+ 1.10	
Korea Trust	63.27	68.49	- 0.26	
Portfolio	147.20	157.30†	+ 0.30	2.30
-do- Accum	278.80	298.20	+ 0.60	2.30
UK Growth	108.30	114.60	+ 0.70	2.80
UK Smaller Cos	100.90	109.10	+ 0.50	1.90
Select Managers	90.30	96.82	+ 0.14	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 259 3000

Intl Gwth Port Inc	91.80	97.45		
Special Opptnr Inc	61.78	65.72†		

BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

Balanced Growth	143.99	151.21	- 0.29	1.35
-do- Accum	164.66	174.24	- 0.33	1.35
Smaller Cos	157.20	166.35	- 0.05	0.71
Higher Yield #	97.58	80.91	- 0.08	3.86
American Gth Inc	98.98	104.74†	- 0.23	
European Growth	166.66	176.39†	+ 0.80	0.62
-do- Accum	178.00	188.63	+ 0.82	0.62
Global Bond Inc #	25.71	27.67		5.67
Mngd Portfio Inc	53.10	56.16†	+ 0.01	1.45
-do- Accum	55.10	58.29	+ 0.01	1.45
Int Spec Opps	166.98	176.70	+ 0.63	
Pacific Grth	149.40	158.86	- 0.35	0.31
UK General #	87.35	102.91	- 0.04	2.96
-do- Accum #	104.65	110.10	- 0.26	2.96
Japan	99.69	63.14	+ 0.38	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	99.69	103.30†	- 0.23	8.27

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Share Dated Gilt	66.51	67.36	- 0.11	6.45

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

Emerging	191.20	201.30	+ 0.10	1.74
UK Growth	212.00	223.20†	- 0.40	2.01
UK Income	148.50	157.10	- 0.20	4.39

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01788 822 109

Can Gen Dist	237.10	251.30	+ 0.80	1.58
-do- Income Dist	127.10	134.70	+ 0.30	3.71
-do- Accum	468.00	496.20	+ 1.00	3.71
Gilt & Fxd Int	46.67	49.74†	+ 0.07	6.37
Growth Units	256.50	274.70†	+ 0.80	2.05
Bond	173.80	182.80†	+ 0.60	7.10
Intl Growth	249.00	265.00	+ 0.80	0.10
North American	260.50	277.40	+ 0.30	0.18
Far East	306.40	326.80	+ 1.30	0.67
UK Smaller Cos	228.50	242.80	- 0.10	0.86
European	97.56	103.40	+ 0.40	0.62
Japanese Growth	47.31	50.29	+ 0.40	
High Income	218.20	233.10†	+ 0.70	4.30

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

American & Gen	221.80	235.40†		
European Inc	95.68	101.36†	+ 0.40	0.62
Smaller Cos (4-1)	105.50	116.50†		1.47
Growth	547.30	582.20†	- 2.10	1.77
Income & Growth #	462.70	492.30	+ 0.50	3.85
-do- Accum #	669.40	744.10	+ 0.90	3.85
Japan & Gen	68.23	72.48	+ 0.41	
Master Portfolio	£121.16	£125.16	+22.00	1.86
-do- Accum	£149.03	£153.93	+27.00	1.86
Special Sits	128.20	136.40	+ 0.10	1.76
High Yield	£15.13	£15.60		4.27

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0700

Cazenove Portfolio	102.58	109.43	+ 0.16	2.33
American Portfolio	124.61	132.31	+ 0.94	0.86
European Portfolio	135.23	144.02	+ 0.78	0.61
High Income	51.58	51.76††	- 0.09	7.15
Japanese Portfolio	68.05	73.20	+ 0.51	
Pacific Portfolio	156.99	166.81	+ 0.16	1.41
UK Equity	99.27	105.89	+ 0.10	2.86
UK Equity & Bd	58.16	61.63	+ 0.04	6.19

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

Inv Fund	774.94	786.68	+13.21	4.25
Fxd Int Sec	153.00	155.62	+ 1.77	9.19

CGF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	769.91	781.55	+ 9.82	4.26
Investment Acc	£35.10	£35.63	+40.48	
Fixed Int Inc	127.72	128.24	+ 0.97	9.05
Fixed Int Acc	227.53	228.45	+ 1.78	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5995

Beckman Intl	88.58	93.60		3.07
Beck Bec-Tech	44.40	46.00	+ 1.16	
Comm Ethical Tst	188.17	197.60		0.43
City Fin Assets	85.03	89.29		1.50
City Fin America	112.46	118.09		
City Fin Intl	92.14	96.75		0.44
City Fin Japan	147.26	154.64		
Friars Hse Cap	228.72	240.16		2.42
Friars Hse Inc	206.00	216.15		3.44
Buckley Wrld Grth	146.26	153.59††		
J Sid Ins/Gth Inc	56.07	58.88	+ 0.56	3.27
Share Utilities	58.06	58.11	+ 0.09	6.16

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01227 227 300

Emerging Markets	58.08	61.62†	+ 0.02	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

American Growth	81.84	87.08	- 0.16	
Dragon Growth	73.09	78.17	+ 0.29	0.44
Equity Dist	90.07	96.45†	+ 0.10	4.05
-do- Accum	136.37	139.60	+ 0.14	4.05
Extra Income Inc	26.48	27.65	- 0.05	7.52
Extra Income Acc	28.69	30.20	- 0.05	7.52
European Growth	63.63	67.72	+ 0.29	0.98
Evergreen	32.37	34.62	+ 0.23	
General Equity	105.44	111.97	+ 0.30	2.89
Japan Growth	50.08	53.29	+ 0.45	
Pedigree Gwth	65.44	69.62	+ 0.15	2.21
Pnd Scn Cos Inc	39.13	41.63	- 0.11	1.42
-do- Accum	41.46	44.11	- 0.11	1.42
Retirement Inc #	28.24	30.04	+ 0.08	5.57
Special Sits	47.62	50.66	+ 0.07	2.33
UK & Overseas	60.34	64.02	+ 0.23	0.70

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

Balanced	69.86	72.77†	+ 0.05	3.94
Fixed Int	84.52	88.04†	+ 0.17	2.23
High Income	51.15	53.28†	- 0.12	7.11
Tax Spl	57.14	59.52†	+ 0.26	2.05

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds				
Equity Inc	199.84	208.17	+ 0.06	4.41
Long Gilt	42.76	44.53	- 0.09	6.35
Monthly Inc Plus	49.15	51.20	- 0.04	8.75
Preference Share	47.04	49.00	- 0.05	7.86
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	146.97	152.05	+ 0.01	5.61
Managed Fund	78.73	82.01	+ 0.11	2.62
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	53.65	55.89	+ 0.03	1.70
-do- Accum	53.41	55.65	+ 0.01	1.70
UK & General	99.29	103.43	+ 0.26	2.48
-do- Accum	128.78	134.15	+ 0.35	2.49
UK Growth	197.83	206.07	+ 0.66	1.36
International Growth Funds				
Emerging Growth	213.98	222.90	+ 0.55	0.65
Far Eastern Gth	138.33	144.09	+ 0.89	0.02
Global Bond	82.31	86.74	+ 0.17	5.78
Japan Growth	114.65	119.43	+ 0.92	
North Amer Gth	248.32	258.73	- 0.86	
Overall Growth	98.11	89.70	+ 0.39	0.26
Worldwide Growth	74.86	77.98	+ 0.25	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.27	93.27	+ 0.01	5.12
Homewealth Fund	93.41	99.39	+ 0.13	1.52
Qualtrs Fund	157.42	167.47†	+ 0.36	1.86

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5995

Consistent Ut	35.96	38.45†	+ 0.11	4.32

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

Growth	179.30	190.70	+ 0.10	1.79
Income	72.25	76.86†	+ 0.05	4.72
European	75.40	80.21	+ 0.14	0.91
Recovery	188.40	200.40	+ 0.10	2.06

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

Equity Dist	1003.60	1019.10		3.29

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	112.60	119.80†		1.88
Income #	293.70	312.80	+ 0.30	4.06
-do- Accum #	767.70	816.70	+ 0.80	4.06
Smaller Cos	238.80	253.90	- 0.10	0.95
-do- Accum	296.40	315.30	- 0.10	0.95
Gth Portfolio	103.60	110.20†		1.29
High Inc Port #	84.45	89.84†	+ 0.15	4.23

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1634

Euro Small Cos	1690.80	1737.30	- 3.80	
Japan Small Cos	1238.30	1252.90	+38.50	0.01
Uk Small Cos	2227.70	2317.70	+10.10	2.85
US Small Cos	2173.30	2218.90	+ 2.00	0.84

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8819

Dscr Inc	229.70	241.80		3.04

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	172.50	183.50		1.76
UK High Inc Inc	180.20	191.70	- 0.10	3.72
-do- Accum	243.40	258.90	- 0.10	3.72
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European	229.50	244.10	+ 0.50	0.56
European Opps	80.75	85.66	+ 0.30	0.02
Global Prin	30.97	32.93	+ 0.08	0.34
UK Growth	122.70	130.50†		1.09
Growth & Inc	178.20	189.50	+ 0.10	2.45
Intl PEP	48.12	51.17	+ 0.01	1.07
Japan Spec Sits	91.17	96.85	+ 0.67	
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Growth Inc	37.86	38.48	+ 0.08	0.85
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UK Income	115.70	123.30	+ 0.40	4.01
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-do- Accum	725.20	776.80†	+ 2.50	
Capital Tst	397.10	422.40†	- 0.60	1.50
-do- Accum	563.40	600.80†	- 0.80	1.50
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-do- Accum	307.00	326.80	+ 0.10	5.60
Emerging Markets	68.47	73.15	+ 0.03	0.30
-do- Accum	68.69	73.39	+ 0.03	0.30
European	152.10	161.20	+ 0.30	0.90
-do- Accum	161.10	170.90	+ 0.30	0.90
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-do- Accum	423.60	503.60	+ 0.50	4.45
Financial	174.40	185.50	+ 0.30	0.46
-do- Accum	185.30	197.10	+ 0.40	0.46
Gilt Trust	84.61	86.82	- 0.06	6.78
Growth Fund	98.16	101.20	- 0.10	6.79
Hanlin Fund Inc	353.80	361.80	- 1.00	
-do- Accum	353.80	361.80	- 1.00	
Income & Growth	233.50	248.40	+ 1.00	3.61
-do- Accum	370.00	393.60	+ 1.60	3.61
Intl Growth	445.70	474.60	- 0.40	
-do- Accum	494.90	526.90	- 0.50	
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■ POP 1

On and on: after a gruesome start, the story of the Longpigs has turned celebrity corner



■ POP 2

The groove's the thing: DJ Shadow cuts up a mean beat on his new *Endtroducing*

THE TIMES POP ARTS



■ POP 3

Smug ironies, and possibly the most irritating voice in pop: can Space overcome these small problems?



■ POP 4

Multinational aggression comes from the bizarre souls of Disciplin A Kitschme

Confessions of a young cannibal

Once, Crispin Hunt wanted to be a priest. Then he lost God and founded the Longpigs. **Ann Scanlon** reports



"Rock'n'roll is supposed to be about breaking rules, not creating them": the Longpigs — (from left) Simon Stafford, Richard Hawley, Crispin Hunt and Dee Boyle — follow the path of righteousness

The morning after the Longpigs made their live debut in America, there are so many British musicians and record company executives in the foyer of New York's Paramount Hotel that it looks more like a Camden pub at closing time than a fashionable spot in Manhattan.

Among those sprawled across the furniture are the Longpigs, who are in the city to take part in its annual CMJ Music Marathon and Musicfest, a four-day event featuring live performances from hundreds of bands, including fellow Brits the Bluetones, Kula Shaker, Manic Street Preachers and Super Furry Animals.

> "Singing to 20,000 people is like having 20,000 therapists"

Like almost everyone else in the lobby, Crispin Hunt, the 26-year-old singer-guitarist of the Longpigs, has had very little sleep. He, though, spent most of the previous night exploring the more obscure parts of Greenwich Village rather than hanging out at after-show parties.

"I'm not interested in poncing around with loads of other musicians," he says over coffee in a diner just around the corner from the Paramount. "I've seen a couple of gigs, but I haven't been to a single party. As soon as I get to one I have to leave, because it's like, 'What is this? This is just Camden being recreated in the bar of an American hotel.' People think Camden is cool, but to me, it's like an overgrown students union."

Hunt's good-natured disregard for the music business and all that is currently fashionable was nurtured during the Longpigs' troubled early years — although he admits, with mild embarrassment, that he recently relocated from Sheffield to the more bohemian quarters of Notting Hill in West London.

Hunt formed the Longpigs — the name came from a book about cannibalism — with drummer Dee Boyle and bassist Simon Stafford in November 1991, with guitarist Richard Hawley joining a year later. They signed to the Warner Bros offshoot, Elektra, recorded an album with the high-profile producer Gil Norton and were already "practising at being pop stars" when everything collapsed around them.

The first sign that things were no longer going according to plan came when Hunt was speeding down the M1 at 70 miles per hour and unexpectedly piled his car into the back of a lorry. Hunt, who was raised a Catholic and had once considered the priesthood but eventually settled for pop stardom instead, fell into a coma. When he awoke three days later, he was a confirmed atheist. "Some people who have near-death experiences see tunnels of light and immediately become Christians," he says. "But I just woke up and thought, 'This is it. When you're dead you're dead'."

Heaven might not exist, but Hunt was soon to discover that limbo did. Just as the Longpigs were about to release their debut single, Elektra closed its British office and slapped such a heavy price tag on the band's head that no other label would touch it. Around the same time, Hunt was further devastated when his first serious romance came to an abrupt end. "It was proper love," he says now. "The kind that they make movies and write songs about."

Eventually, the Longpigs wrangled their way out of the record deal and, by the end of 1994, had signed up with Mother, the label U2 started in Dublin in the mid-1980s. They then recorded another debut album, *The Son is Often Out*, which featured "the greatest hits" from the shelved record and several new songs (including their new single, *Lost Myself*).

Rather than being lumped in with the Britpop masses, the Longpigs' soulful songs and Hunt's impressive vocal range earned them favourable comparisons with Radiohead. "I'd rather be compared to Radiohead than Northern Uproar or Bis," Hunt says. "I think all this revivalism is really sad. Call me old-fashioned, but rock'n'roll is supposed to be about breaking rules, not creating them. It's not meant to be about fitting in, and I think that's working to our advantage."

Hunt has also managed to get the most out of his failed love affair by using it as the basis for the anthemic *On and On*, which gave the Longpigs their first Top 20 hit in the summer. Performing such personal songs has also provided a useful substitute for the Catholic ritual he most enjoyed.

"I used to love confession," he says. "I mean, people spend thousands of pounds on therapists and you get to tell your sins to a priest for free. But singing songs like *On and On* in front of 20,000 people is a form of confession — it's like having 20,000 therapists — and when they all clap at the end it's the biggest kick you can imagine."

● *The new single* Lost Myself *is released on Monday by Mother. Longpigs' British tour begins tomorrow at Manchester University*

A jagged little pill to swallow

Real women should take no pride in the success of Alanis, Tori and other female singer-songwriters



CAITLIN MORAN

Sometimes, the music industry is so predictable you could set your watch by it. Almost exactly ten years since the last glut of "intense" female singer-songwriters, we're hitting this decade's lot right on time. Undeterred by the careers that petered out for the likes of Tanita Tikaram and Julia Fordham, A&R men the world over have again gone girl crazy.

This year's depressing slew contains Alanis Morissette, Sheryl Crow, Patti Rothberg, Tori Amos and at least another half-dozen skinny-bottomed women with photogenic faces and a couple of problems that rhyme with each other.

Now, there's a difference between humourless feminist whingeing and pointing things out. If I should say: "Well, we have a bunch of safe, pretty girls singing about nothing much; and this is because men rule everything," then that is a whinge. Should I point out that the majority of A&R men are, indeed, men, and will therefore only sign female artists that they, as men, can understand, then you'll start to see my point.

This is what A & R men understand women singing about: how a man doesn't love them any more; how they've found a new man to love; how the world is, like, weird; sex. And so these are the only female singer-songwriters we see.

Pretty depressing when you consider that singer-songwriters are prestige, "classy" artists, and "classy" artists generally get more leeway in terms of unconventional looks and opinions. Incredibly depressing when you consider that women look like everything, and want to sing about everything. Part of the problem is retroism — a trend much discussed with reference to Cast, Ocean Colour Scene and Oasis. What hasn't been discussed is the way sexual politics in the music industry has become retro-ised too.

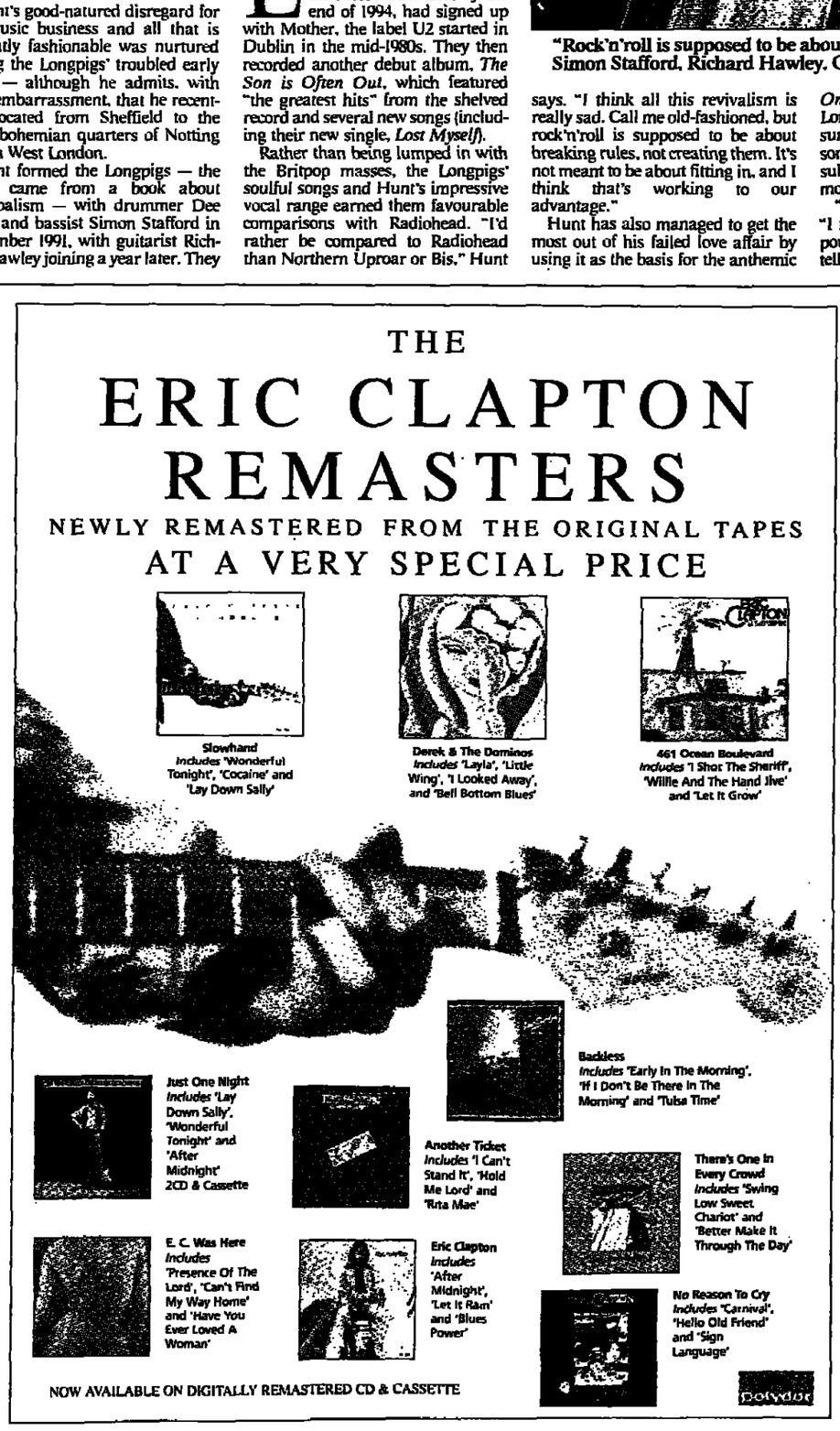
These female singer-songwriters are "kooky" hippy chicks; barefoot with an acoustic guitar trying to understand the world. They are a throwback to the faux childhood innocence venerated in women in the Sixties; and retro completely ignores the trend over the past 15 years for solo female artists to be like Madonna, Janet Jackson and Courtney Love. To be women, basically, and not little girls.

Another shocking part of this trend is how quickly we've forgotten the advances in the subject matters women are "allowed" to tackle. Morissette's debut album caused a storm in the press, because of its sexually explicit lyrics. These were seen as challenging. How could they be? Ninety per cent of the songs in the charts at the moment are about wanting to have sex. How can a beautiful woman saying she enjoys it be seen as challenging? Even the readers and writers of *Loaded* have realised women like sex.

But bring me a fat chick singing about oral sex — that's challenging. How about a fortysomething woman singing about it, or a rather "plain" girl singing about how "ugly" women are better in bed? Or women who have no desire to sing about love or sex at all? Who want to sing about champagne supernovas and teen spirit and working class heroes?

In order to find it's own identity, a generation must have a vast range of identities to choose from. While our most successful female artists are emotionally restricted, questionably marketed and look like members of the cast of *Friends*, I doubt whether we're providing that range.

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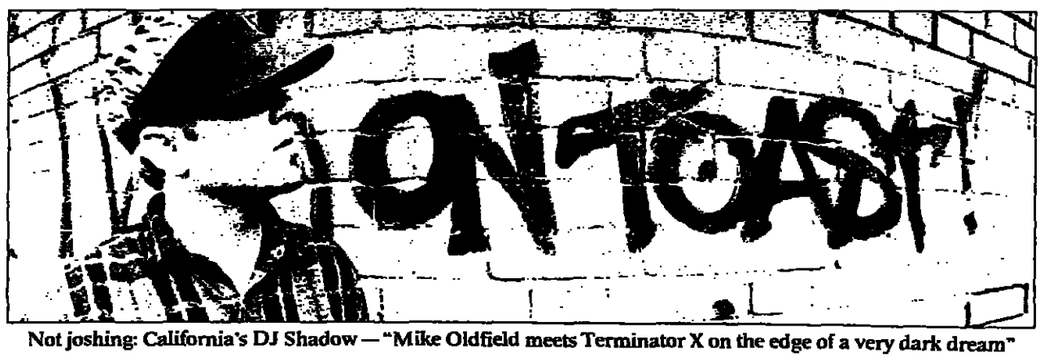
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ALBUMS: From mercurial moods, through smug Space, to a deranged diva



Not joshing: California's DJ Shadow — "Mike Oldfield meets Terminator X on the edge of a very dark dream"

Dancing in deep Shadow

DJ SHADOW
Endtroducing...
(Mo Wax/A&M MW059)
ALTHOUGH better known to his Mum as plain old Josh Davis from Davis, California, DJ Shadow is a recording artist whose work lives up to his assumed name. Nominally a product of the American hip-hop genre, his debut album, *Endtroducing...*, is subject to the kind of mysterious shifts in mood and tempo usually associated in this country with Bristol's otherworldly trip-hop brigade.

But while the current fashion among British DJs is to pump out ever more pneumatic techno beats, Shadow takes more traditional funk rhythms as his template. "I'm a student of the drums," he announces on *Building Steam with a Grain of Salt*, and you will not hear a more lovingly produced facsimile of that big, super-flakey James Brown drum sound anywhere.

There are no tunes to speak of: groove and atmosphere is all. But as the beats are cut up and bounced across the turntables, and translucent keyboard parts swim in and out of the mix during the nine-minute-long *Stem/Long Stem*, the music gradually assumes an almost symphonic shape. It is as if Mike Oldfield had met Terminator X on the edge of a very dark dream and forged an album of unlikely, mercurial delights.

SPACE
Spiders
(Gut Records/Total Independence GUTCD1)
SPACE are the much fancied group from Liverpool whose efforts tend to be hampered by the fact that singer Jamie Murphy has the most irritating voice in pop. Mangling his vowels, rolling his Rs and whining like a child being forced to eat his greens, he combines the exaggerated mannerisms of Steve Harley and John Lydon to excruciatingly meaningless effect on their debut album, *Spiders*.

The songs are peopled by a grubby cast of weirdos (*Neighbourhood*), nutters (*Mister Psycho*), money-grubbing ingrates (*Money*), petty criminals (*Me and You vs the World*) and John Major (*Major Pager*), all of whose antisocial antics are documented with a worldly sneer and a voyeuristic eye for detail.

As writers, Space do have a way of producing a catchy pop tune, it is true. But the vaudeville touches and pseudo-Bacharach string arrangements add further layers of ironic kitsch to a package that is already too smug by half.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	**K**	Kula Shaker (Columbia)
2	**New Adventures in Hi-fi**	R.E.M. (Warner Bros)
3	**Travelling Without Moving**	Jamiroquai (Sony S2)
4	**Jagged Little Pill**	Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
5	**(What's the Story) Morning Glory?**	Oasis (Creation)
6	**The Score**	Fugees (Columbia)
7	**Older**	George Michael (Virgin)
8	**Moseley Shoals**	Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
9	**The Smurfs Go Pop!**	Smurfs (EMI TV)
10	**Recurring Dream — Best of**	Crowded House (Capitol)

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DISCIPLIN A KITSCHME
I Think I See Myself On CCTV
(Babaroga BABA CDLI)
AN extraordinary line-up, Disciplin A Kitschme feature a bass player called Black Tooth from Belgrade, a drummer known as Beat from Auckland and singer Gofie Bebe from Shepherds Bush. Located at that unlikely junction where old-style progressive rock meets the pumped-up grooves of the rave generation, their stock-in-trade is a take-no-prisoners style of riffing spliced to a swift, furiously banging beat.

Black Tooth, who wrote and produced the album, has a marauding approach to the bass that recalls the wilder extremes of fusion virtuoso Stanley Clarke. Gofie Bebe, meanwhile, sounds like a diva from the more raucous wing of American R&B. She emotes furiously but rarely gets hold of a tune.

A spectacular display of energy and aggression, *I Think I See Myself On CCTV* will certainly go down as one of the most intriguingly deranged albums of the year.

DAVID SINCLAIR

هكذا من الأصل



■ OPERA

Orchestral beauty lifts the ENO's bedroom-farce staging of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



■ THEATRE 1

Metaphor piles on metaphor as Neil Bartlett puts Balzac on stage in Hammersmith

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ THEATRE 2

. . . while Schnitzler is turned into song in *Romance, Romance* at the Bridewell



■ TOMORROW

Puccini in Leeds; and a great Tiepolo show in Venice: read the verdict of our top critics

THEATRE: **Jeremy Kingston** on a fantasy; and the fringe

Queen of his heart

Sarrasine
Lyric, Hammersmith

IF NEIL Bartlett were ever to dramatise a nursery rhyme, you can be sure he would not willingly tell a straightforward tale of optically challenged rodents who make the unwise career move of running after a woman with a knife and end up terminally challenged as well. For a start, the show's narrator would be the moody son of the knife-grinder, whose hobby was mending clocks and who could tell a tale of mice — to a striking melody written by Nicolas Bloomfield.

Before long the mice of one story would be interchangeable with the mice of the other. There would be *levels* of meaning, and like as not the whole business would be a metaphor of the artist's life.

This is the method he has applied to Balzac's story of young Jean-Ernest Sarrasine, haunted by the beautiful voice and physique of the singer known as La Zambinella. Not until the tragic climax does he discover that the woman he loves is a castrato.

In Bartlett's version a poised and wealthy woman (Sara Kestelman) is lured to the stage of an empty theatre where La Zambinella, or her ghosts, emerge from the shadows to sing their memories of the young man who loved them long ago. The oldest ghost is the chestnut-voiced Bette Bourne, wearing one of his favourite rich red gowns: Lady Disdain one moment, Lady Muck the next. The middle ghost is played by Beverley Klein, also fond of oscillating or overlapping genres, in her case those of tragedy and comedy queens.

Youngest of the three is the hauntingly androgynous François Testory, who sings in something like a counter-tenor excerpts from operatic evergreens. Bloomfield provides attractively quirky music of his own, including arias by a composer I almost recognise, probably Bellizetti.

Intricately told and beautifully lit, the story has one aria too many — particularly as the voices lack the legendary glories of the castrati. But the show is an exotic, tender occasion, part fantasy, part cry from the heart.

MARILYN KINGWILL



Sara Kestelman and François Testory in *Sarrasine*

FRINGE THEATRE

Parents past and present

CURIOSITY Theatre Company is certainly aptly named. Chris Goode's play *Kissing Bingo* (at the Finborough) is very odd indeed. It glances from unexpected oblique angles at disturbed adolescents, domestic abuse and — possibly — parental murder. Goode's vision is aberrant but distinctly interesting.

In a weird white realm two teenagers are lying on their backs. Suddenly Tammy (Deborah O'Malley) is up and talking at us, blank-faced but manic. She tells us Mummy and Daddy have been killed in a car accident. They were, she adds, without batting an eyelid, watching telly at the time, apparently innocently living in a cardboard reconstruction of the family home assembled by her brother Leo and placed on a motorway.

Tammy's monologue hovers between the absurd and the unsettling. In subsequent scenes we veer between past and present, reality and fantasy. We enter the sibling's memories, glimpsing increasingly nightmarish parents.

In the here and now, Tammy and Leo have been taken in by three bizarre pals — Eric, Pig and Angel. Leo (latently aggressive Finlay Robertson) latches onto Angel (scruffy Gregory McFarnon), insisting he is their lost brother and redeemer.

Sometimes the acting is stiff. Goode's drama fails to tie up satisfactorily and is weak on interaction. But his monologues are startling, abstruse, and poetically incisive.

Far more mainstream, we have a pair of musicals at the Bridewell. *Romance, Romance*, originally an off-Broadway hit, is hardly heart-searching but is staged with considerable swish (director Steven Dexter). Lyricist Barry Harman and composer Keith Herrman, making a song and a dance out of a short story by Schnitzler, first transport us back to turn-of-the-century Vienna. *The Little Comedy* is a satirical love story about the upper crust entertaining romantic notions about roughing it. A fine lady and a dapper gent simultaneously fancy having a fling with some charmingly poverty-striken stranger. Josefine and Alfred promenade incognito, as seamstress and bohemian poet, and are fooled by each other. The rich characters, who sing, have alter egos who dance, and double as ill-treated underlings.

The operetta has little bite. But Ria Jones's Josefine shines, plummily swooping and neatly punctuating her histrionics.

Summer Share follows. Jules Renard's play *Le Pain de Ménage* is transposed to Long Island today and focuses on two supposedly platonic friends who get drunk on holiday and feel sexually tempted, yet haunted by their spouses. Though regularly slushy, the show has catchy tunes. Monica (Jones reincarnated) and Sam (Mark Adams) are endearingly playful, crooning like pop stars into the neck of a whisky bottle.

KATE BASSETT

DONALD COOPER



Bedroom farce: Roderick Kennedy as Bottom and Lillian Watson as Tytiana in ENO's unlovable, brash staging of a musically superb *Dream*

Sublime and ridiculous

OPERA: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Coliseum

You do not need to have your ear all that close to the ground to gather that things are not too healthy at the Covent Garden box-office: there are newspaper reports of poor bookings for the *Ring* cycles, a surefire sell-out in the old days, and — shock! horror! — "two for one" offers for *Bohème*, traditionally even surer fire, which is why the management planned 15 performances.

So it is not just Richard Jones's nasty modern *Ring* that is not selling, it is lovely traditional *Bohème* as well. As some of us have been warning for ages, the fault lies with prices about double those across the Channel; punters think twice about spending £100 on anything, but only one-and-a-half times before shelling out half that amount. You can push market forces just so far before the crunch.

I believe that has now come, and in a creepy sort of way the Covent Garden closure is timely: it gives the new, thrusting management a breathing space to ponder the house's role in the dying years of this brutally hard-nosed century.

There is a whiff of encouragement from round the corner in St Martin's Lane: the Coliseum, too, lost its audience four years ago for a variety of reasons, but it has won it back. The fact that tickets cost half those at the Garden is not insignificant: those wanting their fix know where to go. And while the ENO autumn programme may be revival-rich, it is rich in revivals that people want to see — Massenet's autumnal *Don Quixote*, Janáček's vernal *Vixen*, Miller's Mafia *Rigoletto* — and there was a full and appreciative house for Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream* on Wednesday.

As fixes go, it was a pretty good one, at least at one level. There are few conductors who know more about Britten than Steuart Bedford: this was as beautiful a reading of the score as I have heard. From those ominous opening bars onwards, the playing was simply superb, revealing many a felicity sometimes overlooked — the woodwind writing under Helena's second-act solo for one — and catching each shifting mood precisely, in particular the yearning sensuousness. It sounded like a different orchestra from the one that staggered through *Traviata* the week before.

And there is some real "class" singing, led by Lillian Watson's glittering Tytania and Jean Rigby's sumptuous Hippolyta. There was great interest in the house debut of David Daniels — he of Glyndebourne's *Theodora* — as Oberon. Maybe the role lies a little low for a counter-tenor who sounds happier the higher he goes, but his coppery tone with its sweet vibrato gave as much pleasure as his intense musicianship.

He appeared to take little part in Robert Carsen's production, all too faithfully revived by Carlos Wagner, for which I cannot blame him: I tried desperately hard to see what it is that so many find to admire in this staging, and failed. Reducing Shakespeare and Britten to bedroom farce seems a dubious compliment to pay to either, and too many of the other singers are submerged in its acres of witless chic. Having won audiences back, ENO must give them something better than this.

RODNEY MILNES

MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA

Richard Cork concludes his daily series on the glories of the British Museum's magnificent* Mysteries of Ancient China *show

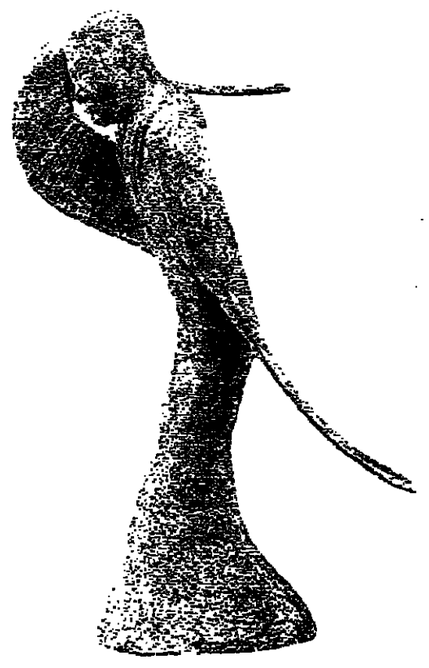


FIGURE OF A DANCER

NOTHING could be more poised and graceful than this enchanting ceramic dancer, excavated in Baijiakou, Shaanxi province. With hands hidden by her garment, the figure uses the long sleeves to accentuate her own rhythmic gestures. This performer was meant to beguile the tomb's owner during his afterlife. The paint on her overgarment would once have run in brilliantly coloured patterns over the fine material. It reflects the importance attached to dancers throughout the Eastern Han period (AD 25-220).

The kings believed that rituals preserved cosmic harmony. The Han emperor Chengdi was so captivated by a dancer called Zhao Feiyan that she became his empress. Nicknamed the Flying Swallow, she gratified, like this figure, the Han dynasty's preference for willowy bodies.

● Mysteries of Ancient China, *sponsored by* The Times, *is* [illegible] *Admission £5; bookings on*

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● *Presentation packs, first day covers, postcards, and the Classic Sports Car stamps are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau: call 0345 641 641 (Mon-Fri); and most Post Offices — for more details call 0345 22 33 44. First day covers are also available from BPCPA: 0181 886 6744*

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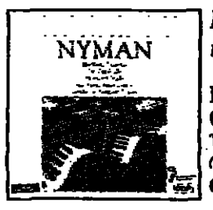


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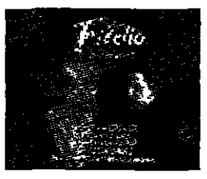
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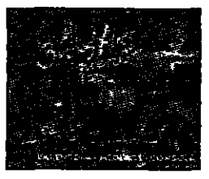
September



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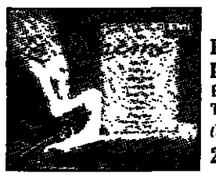
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■ CHOICE 1

Lorca's *Blood Wedding* is staged in Ted Hughes's version

VENUE: Now in preview at the Young Vic



■ CHOICE 2

Ring resounding: Haitink conducts Covent Garden's *Rheingold*

VENUE: Opens tomorrow at the Royal Opera

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ MUSIC 1

Richard Hickox prepares for a long weekend with the great oratorios of Edward Elgar



■ MUSIC 2

Murray Perahia's brilliant keyboard clarity does not emerge loud and clear in the new Bridgewater Hall

Overture and apostles, please

Barry Millington talks to the conductor Richard Hickox about this weekend's festival of 'operatic' Elgar

DES JENSON



Raised in song: Richard Hickox — "It's going to be a weekend that people who last the course won't forget"

To look through Richard Hickox's schedule for the coming year is to realise why he is regarded as one of the most prodigious choral conductors of our time. Major works by Vaughan Williams *(Sea Symphony)*, Schubert *(Lazarus)* and Britten *(Spring Symphony)* jostle with the *St John Passions*, *Elijahs* and other staples of the repertoire. But opera is looming ever larger in the schedule too. *Tosca*, *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *Dido and Aeneas* all feature there, and there is even a *Lohengrin* on the horizon.

Opera and oratorio are clearly not unrelated categories for Hickox, as I discovered when I asked him about the orgy of Elgar he is indulging in this weekend at the Barbican (*Dream of Gerontius*, *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* on successive days). "When you hear *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* side by side, you actually hear the leitmotifs of *The Apostles* coming back in *The Kingdom*. It's Elgar's uncompleted *Ring* cycle."

The operatic impulse is also foremost in Hickox's mind when it comes to questions of interpretation. "We've had so many performances of *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* which have been slow and undramatic and I want to make them intensely operatic, which I believe these works are. Although there is a lot of *religioso* music in it, there's also a lot of drama."

What about the verdict of the Elgar scholar Jerrold Northrop Moore, that the weakness of *The Apostles* lies in the composer's failure to develop the character of Mary Magdalene; that the work contained the worst of Elgar's oratorio writing but also the best? "It's very uneven, and some bits are weak. So I know exactly what he means. But a performance that catches fire transcends that. I will use a lot of the spatial effects. Oboes and cor anglais play offstage and there should be a semi-chorus separate from the choir that sings offstage. For me it will be an intensely emotional experience, and it's going to be a weekend that people who last the course won't forget."

The following Sunday, also at the Barbican, Hickox will be resurrecting a real rarity: George Dyson's choral epic *The Canterbury Pilgrims*. Dyson's works were enormously popular in the 1920s and 1930s, when choral societies thrilled to their melodic facility and late-Romantic harmonies. And Dyson has enjoyed a revival recently, thanks not least to Hickox, who has recorded several of his pieces for Chandos.

That company will be bringing out the premiere recording of *The Canterbury Pilgrims* too, under Hickox, who can scarcely disguise his excitement. "It's a lot of fun. It's not a profound piece, but it's very entertaining and the craftsmanship is superb."

The Barbican performance, like the recording, is to open with an orchestral piece called *At the Tabard Inn*, which Dyson said could be used as an overture. "Like a Gilbert & Sullivan operetta, it has all the best tunes of the oratorio. It's a riot for the orchestra."

Another major Hickox project for Chandos is the Grainger Edition, which is to give us the complete works of the Australian-born eccentric, sometimes in more than one version (Grainger often made arrangements of the same song for different forces, and also left the precise scoring to the discretion of the conductor). "He was completely off the wall. Who else can you think of who uses ukuleles, banjos, harmoniums? But he knew the colours he wanted and they really work. And we've also made a point of going for the most bizarre scoring in each case. If you're going to do the whole cycle, there's no point in cutting corners."

The first CD in the series includes two lesser-known orchestral works — Hickox is responsible only for those pieces that use an orchestral ensemble — namely *In a Nutshell* and *English Dance*. The former he describes as "an excellent piece"; the latter as "phenomenal — it's never been done before".

Indeed, a good deal of Grainger has never been done before, or else rarely. And there are some real discoveries to be made, not least among the extraordinarily soul-stirring folk-song settings.

● *See Weekend Choice, left, for details of the Elgar Weekend.*

Brilliant star lost in space

RECITAL

Murray Perahia
Manchester

ONE encouraging aspect of the Bridgewater Hall controversy is that the first solo event in the new venue attracted much public interest. It was not a sell-out but it was a clear indication that there is the potential for a new audience in a city which, far from boasting a tradition of celebrity recitals of this kind, has consistently embarrassed the few big-name soloists who have come here.

But why did Murray Perahia, one of the most intelligent pianists on the international circuit, choose to devote the whole of the first half of a big-hall recital to the Baroque period — to Scarlatti, Bach, Handel and (as a late addition) more Handel? Followed by works by Schubert and Chopin, it would have been fine in the Wigmore Hall. In the first piano recital in the Bridgewater Hall it seemed merely perverse to keep the audience waiting as long as 90 minutes for the first sound of music actually written for the piano.

Surely neither Perahia nor his promoters wanted to demonstrate beyond all doubt that, as far as clarity in small-scale textures is concerned, the hall is not ideal. Of course it is not: that is not what it is designed for. The audience has to make allowances, to attempt to ignore the wash of reverberation and to concentrate on the primary sounds as they emerge from under the fingers. But a little tact in presentation would not be out of place. Certainly, where Perahia treated Baroque keyboard invention as virtuoso piano music, as he did in Handel's Chaconne with 21 Variations, the effect was disproportionately entertaining. Also, at the start of the second half, it was a delight to hear Schubert's Sonata in A major, D664, played with such taste and style.

By the end of the recital delight was somewhat modified. As far as the playing was concerned, the demand for encores — in the form of two Schubert Impromptus — was well justified. As for the authenticity of the experience, however, doubts arose. Even in a hall this size, Chopin's Fourth Ballade or his so-called *Revolutionary Study* should make a direct acoustic impact. In the bass register they often did, sometimes clangorously; in the treble, where there is a disappointing lack of brilliance, they did not.

GERALD LARNER

LONDON

BLOOD WEDDING: Alexandra Gilbreath and Jesper Bruton play the passionate lovers in Lorca's tragedy Tim Supple directs a new version by Ted Hughes, with "hot desert" music composed by Adrian Lee
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Sept 27, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; matsSat, 2.30pm.

ELGAR WEEKEND: The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra launches the Barbican's Great British Orchestras series with a weekend devoted to Elgar. Richard Hickox conducts the composer's three great choral works, beginning with *The Dream of Gerontius*, tonight at 8pm. *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* are performed on consecutive days, as Elgar intended, tomorrow (7.30pm) and Sunday (4pm), respectively.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Sun.

DAS RHEINGOLD: Bernard Haitink conducts the Royal Opera in three complete cycles of Wagner's massive tetralogy, *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, directed by Richard Jones. The remainder of the first cycle will be performed on September 30 (*Die Walküre*), October 7 (*Siegfried*) and October 12 (*Götterdämmerung*). Sung in German with English surtitles.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Tonight, 7pm

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Birmingham Royal Ballet returns home to enchant audiences with the acclaimed production by Sir Peter Wright and Galina Samtsova of *Swan Lake*. With designs by Philip Prouse.
Hippodrome, Hurst Street (0121-622 7486). Tonight-Mon, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm

LEICESTER: Irvine Welsh's vivid and searing *Marabou Stork Nightmares*, adapted and directed by Harry Gibson, with some changes since last winter's premiere at the Glasgow Citizens. Jim Cunningham again plays the imaginative hooligan, haunted and hunted by sex 'n' violence.
Haymarket, Belgrave Gate (0116-253 9797). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Sept 24, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat (Oct 12), 2.30pm.

LIVERPOOL: The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir give the 100th performance of the **Liverpool Oratorio**, jointly written by this evening's conductor, Carl Davis, and one Paul McCartney. The soloists are Anne Dawson, Bernadette Cullen, Bonaventura Bottone and Michael George
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 2895). Tonight, 7.30pm.

MILTON KEYNES: The **Milton Keynes City Orchestra** launches its 1996-97 season with Beethoven's overture to *Promatheus* and the *Siegfried Idyll* by Wagner. The orchestra is then joined by the virtuoso pianist Nikolai Demidenko for Mozart's Piano Concerto No 9, which is followed by Bizet's First Symphony. Hilary Davan Wetton conducts tonight's performance, which is repeated tomorrow
Stantonbury Campus, Stantonbury (01908 234466/692777). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.45pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Anthony d'Offay: Ellen Gallagher (0171-499 4100) . . **Art Connoisseur**: Icon (0171-352 6744) . . **Barbican**: Erwin Blumenfeld: A Fetish for Beauty (0171-638 4141) . . **Camden Arts Centre**: Barnett Newman: Prints 1961-69 (0171-435 2643) . . . **Curwen**: British Prints from the Sixties and Seventies (0171-636 1459) . . **Hayward**: Robert Mapplethorpe (0171-928 3144) . . **Leighton House**: Randolph Caldecott (0171-602 3316) **The October**: Voodoo Flags (0171-242 7367) . . **Royal Academy**: Roger de Grey (0171-439 7438) . . **Tate**: Hans Hartung (0171-887 8000)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **ASHES TO ASHES** Pinter world premiere: Lindsay Duncan and Stephen Rea in an hour-length two-hander directed by Pinter
Royal Court Upstairs (Ambassadors), West Street, WC2 (0171-730 1745). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm.

☐ **BARTLEBY**: Red Shift's excellent production of Melville's story of the Wall Street copy-clerk who one day preferred not to copy. Jonathan Holloway's production down from Edinburgh in double-quick time
Pleasance London, Carpenters Mews, North Road, N7 (0171-609 1800) Tue-Sun, 8pm; mat Sun, 4pm. Until September 29

☐ **BUG**: New play by Tracy Letts, with three of the Hired Gun actors from his brilliant *Killer Joe*. Another dysfunctional white trash family, this time from Oklahoma City, where the politically alienated like to go bombing.
Gate, 11 Pembridge Rd, W11 (0171-229 0706). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until October 19

☐ **FAUST Parts 1 and 2**: Michael Boogdanov's mighty two-part production of Goethe's drama, with Michael Feast in the title role and Hugh Quarshie as Mephistopheles
The Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today and tomorrow: Part 1, 2.30pm; Part 2, 7.15pm. In rep

☐ **KINDERTRANSPORT**: Diana Ouck and Jean Boht in Diane Samuels's moving drama about a Jewish girl who reached England from Nazi Germany but grew up in denial. Abigail Morris's award-winning production in the West End at last.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **PENTECOST**: Rough Magic's production of Stewart Parker's fine play, and alas his last: one of the best of the many written about modern Belfast. Lynne Parker directs Rough Magic's production from the Dublin Festival.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm.

☐ **SUNSPOTS**: Judy Upton's praised drama about a girl camping out in a seaside amusement arcade. Lisa Goldman's production, previously at the Red Room, revived for the Critics' Choice season.
BAC, 176 Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 5.30pm. Until September 29.

■ **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?** Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's staging of Albee's most famous play. With Clare Holman and Lloyd Owen
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Now previewing, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm. Opens Sept 25, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm. Until October 26.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . ☐ **Elvis**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) . . ◪ **Fame: The Musical**: Cambridge (0171-494 5083) ◪ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ☐ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . . ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . . ☐ **Passion**: Queen's (0171-494 5690) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . . . ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

ANTONIA'S LINE (15). A Dutch woman's feisty life. Feel-good movie from Marleen Gorris; this year's winner of the Best Foreign Film Oscar
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

● **ESCAPE FROM LA** (15): Blowsy action movie from John Carpenter, set in a lawless Los Angeles of 2013. With Kurt Russell.
Empire (0800-888 911) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031)

THE GREAT WHITE HYPE (15): Flat-footed sports satire, with Samuel L. Jackson as a boxing impresario.
Odeon West End (01426-915 574) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

GUANTANAMERA (15): Lethargic Cuban satire with a few bright trimmings. Directors, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabío
Metro (0171-437 0757)

THE INCREDIBLY TRUE ADVENTURE OF TWO GIRLS IN LOVE (15): Gauche but sweet tale of teenage lesbians, written and directed by Maria Maggenti. With Laurel Holloman and Nicole Parker.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

● **STRIPTEASE** (15): Demi Moore's stripper seeks custody of her daughter. Clumsy mixture of sex, satire and melodrama, with Burt Reynolds.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

CURRENT

● **EMMA** (U): Gwyneth Paltrow shines in a Jane Austen adaptation that leans too much towards the pretty-pretty. With Jeremy Northam.
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

● **JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH** (U). Mistreated James finds his feet in a peach voyaging across the Atlantic. Excellent animated version of Roald Dahl's book. Director, Henry Selick.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

● **MULHOLLAND FALLS** (15): Handsome but muted mystery thriller, set in 1950s Los Angeles, with Nick Nolte and John Malkovich. Director, Lee Tamahori.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ●) on release across the country

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY 18 Sept-18 Oct Born with a 'golden spoon' Artists of Immodest Means
11 Motcomb St SW1 0171 235 8144

ROY MILES GALLERY. Exhibition - The Joy of Landscape By Francis Le Marchant. **LAST WEEK.** 29 Bruton Street, W1 Tel. 0171 495 4747

Singer & Friedlander/Sunday Times Watercolour Competition 1996. An exhibition of the selected entries of this major art prize. Mall Galleries, *nr Trafalgar Sq*, SW1 11-21 Sept, 10am - 5 daily. Admission free - for info: 01372 462190

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PEGGY MOUNT
JOHN NORMINGTON
IMOGEN STUBBS
Directed by Bill Bryden
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EDUCATION

Unhelpfully marked for life

Traditional degree classifications are too vague. A new marking system is badly needed, says Keith Chapman



STEPHEN FORREST/GUZELIAN

A new graduate of Bradford University poses proudly. But what will his degree class tell an employer?

It is a quarter of a century since the polemic study *Marked for Life* suggested the degree classification system was outdated and unfair to students. Much has changed in British universities since 1971, but most of their graduates are still labelled with the familiar categories of "first", "upper second", "lower second" and "third". Reform of this system is long overdue.

The "class system" was introduced at Oxbridge, adopted by London and the early civic universities in the 19th century and followed by the post-Robbins universities in the 1960s. Over the years, many academics have noted its limitations. Its crudity is, for example, acknowledged in the established practice of the research councils in asking referees to indicate where applicants for studentships lie within a notional sub-division of upper seconds into three categories.

Many external examiners called upon to determine the fate of marginal candidates in a 30-minute interview would, I suspect, feel more comfortable with this responsibility if the public record of graduation certificates moved in the direction of these more sensitive, private classifications.

The idiosyncrasies of old marking systems and the secrecy of examination boards created a climate in which students were grateful to receive any feedback and were unable to challenge the judgments reflected in degree classifications. Social and political pressures for greater accountability have produced a massive change in the culture of universities in these areas. Many have now introduced marking schemes which explicitly link qualities to grades.

Such schemes provide no guarantee of consistency between markers, but university teachers are required to show greater care and professionalism than their predecessors in the assessment of students. This requirement has highlighted the crudity of the classified honours degree as a measure of ability and achievement. It is illogical to reduce the detailed information on the performance of candidates deriving from increasingly diverse methods of assessment and more sophisticated marking scales to just four or (in most subjects in which thirds are few and far between) three classes.

The argument has been reinforced by the (proper) release of individual examination marks to students. This has made clear to them what has always been known by their tutors: that students with very different overall performances are awarded the same class of degree and that students with very similar performances are awarded different degrees as a result of "hairline" decisions at the class boundaries.

Modularisation is another relatively recent development which has implications for the classified honours degree. The advantages and particularly the disadvantages of modularisation remain regular topics of conversation in the senior common room, but so much effort has been invested in this change across the higher education systems that it is unlikely to go away.

One of the objectives of modularisation is to erode the traditional disciplinary boundaries and to permit students to take sometimes improbable combinations of subjects within a degree programme. This has drawn attention to variations in assessment practice and procedure between different departments of the same university and has contributed to the emergence of institutional marking scales. It has also led to situations in which candidates may perform at very different levels in the individual elements of their programme.

Such differences are concealed by the current system where the final result in modular degrees is usually the outcome of a mechanistic averaging process. This creates a tension between the eclecticism of course delivery in modular degrees and the inflexibility of the classification system used to describe the product.

Any new system must not abdicate the universities' responsibility for making judgments about the qualities of their graduates. Indeed, one of the main strands of the argument is that there are significant variations in these qualities which the present system conceals rather than reveals.

A dual approach, based on a straightforward division between pass (and possibly pass with distinction) and fail, along with a detailed transcript or profile describing performance in the various elements of the programme, is probably the way forward. It has the support of many vice-chancellors, and would provide both a summary statement of achievement and a comprehensive description identifying areas of relative weakness or failure, as well as success. Any change must be adopted simultaneously by all universities so as to maintain the principle of, at least, general comparability between their products.

Changing the classified honours system will certainly not reduce standards. Indeed, the pressure upon examiners to give students "the benefit of the doubt" will be reduced in a system which provides for greater differentiation. The universities should introduce a system which will be more informative to employers and also ensure that future generations of students will carry a more refined "mark for life".

Professor Keith Chapman is head of the geography department at Aberdeen University. His research into degree classifications for the Higher Education Quality Council, to be published this autumn, will show that the proportion of students at pre-1992 universities gaining first or upper second class degrees rose from 42 to 58 per cent from 1973 to 1993.

Turn on to long distance learning

John O'Leary on how big business is tuning in to remote, hi-tech study

Distance learning has been one of the main growth areas of British education in recent years. Once the preserve of the Open University and a dwindling number of correspondence colleges, courses are now available from many different providers.

Developments in educational technology have encouraged business, as well as the academic world, to get in on the act. This was demonstrated at a conference and exhibition devoted entirely to open learning for business at Wembley this week.

The conference, which brought together business people and academics, was the largest British event of its kind. The presence of blue chip companies such as Shell, British Aerospace and Siemens confirmed the enthusiasm of big business for the latest flexible programmes.

Andy Wolfe, Thames Valley University's pro-vice chancellor and director of commercial development, made a plea at the conference for closer collaboration with the academic world. "I believe we should be planning — not just as individual institutions but collectively, university to university, university to industry — how best to supply the learning packages needed."

Mr Wolfe said the technological revolution would mean thousands of students following the same course simultaneously in different parts of the world. "Universities must change their thinking and embrace the concept that people will study *with* a university, not *at* one."

Thames Valley has been pioneering new teaching techniques, linking students to their teachers electronically. Student numbers have increased from 9,000 to 26,000 in five years, with two-thirds on part-time courses.

While universities, especially the Open University, remain the main providers of distance learning, the private sector is increasingly involved. A new programme developed by the Lancashire-based Computer Skills College, for example, uses the home or business computer as teacher, examiner and awarding authority.



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Try a little bit of this exam

Modular A levels are devaluing our education system, says **Susan Elkin**

Earlier this week the news broke that a student has been able to get his A-level grade changed by asking that the marks for his modules be apportioned differently. Surely that should set alarm bells ringing even more urgently about the concept of modular A levels?

For the first time this year, about one fifth of all A-level results depended on exams sat in bite-sized chunks during a two-year period. Vivian Anthony, secretary of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, recently wrote in defence of modular A levels in a letter to *The Times*. "Whereas able candidates," he wrote, "will do well whatever the system of examining, lower-ability candidates have benefited significantly from the introduction of modular schemes." If that does not mean modular A levels are easier, then what does it mean?

One English department I know has resisted the modular option. It teaches the set texts and critical skills for two years in the traditional way. It shares the same syllabus as the "modularists" but candidates take all their end-of-module tests in one session at the end of the course.

The department does this for educational reasons. The school curriculum is fragmented enough without splitting it up any further, members of the department believe. How can you make links and learn to draw connections if you do your poetry as a separate entity from your prose?

If you are working on, say, Keats and Jane Austen, it make sense to cross-refer. They were contemporaries. What else do they have in common? How do they differ? Why?

How long can those English teachers keep it up? The "grade war", in which all schools are now embroiled, is ruthless. No school can afford to do anything which might "cost" even one grade in a single subject. League tables dominate everything. If modular candidates get higher grades — as they do — then that is the route they will soon have to take. This is about survival, not education. As it is, the teachers are discussing the possibility of re-entering one candidate whose overall grade fell short of expectations; not for the whole exam, as would formerly have been necessary, but selectively. Examinees need only retake the papers they could not pass.

The A level was conceived after the Second World War to stretch the academic elite: about 10 per cent of the population. It was never meant to be an all-purpose 18+ test for nearly half the age range. Of course we have had to "adjust" the standards. Otherwise nearly all the current entrants would fail.

There is a political basis to all this. First you ensure that vast numbers of 16 to 18-year-olds are safely in schools and colleges getting good passes in A level. Going modular is just one means of doing that. Then you put at least a third of the 18+ age group into "higher" education. Result? The stark reality of youth unemployment is effectively masked.

Of course I am glad for any 18-year-old who has achieved good A-level results and is about to proceed to university. But I cannot pretend to believe that the wider access to A-level passes afforded by modularity is good news. It is not even honest.

DAVID MUSCROFT



Delighted pupils and their head teacher Steven Andrew from Sandringham School, St Albans, rewarded by Gillian Shephard

Top schools assemble for Ofsted Oscars

David Charter on award-winning schools in the eastern counties

A buzz went around Flitwick Lower School hall. The ministerial car had been spotted. "Mrs Shephard is here!" announced David Wynford-Jones, head teacher at Flitwick, recently identified as one of Bedfordshire's top primary schools.

Youngsters from 16 of the most successful schools in the eastern counties were soon flocking round for photographs with the Education and Employment Secretary.

They had assembled at the 320-pupil primary school to display highlights of the work which helped their schools to win the ultimate accolade. Their reward for attending one of the 200 schools deemed outstanding, excellent or "good and improving" nationally by Ofsted, the inspection agency, was to be lauded by Gillian Shephard in her first appearance at a regional celebratory reception.

"Not many days pass without some education story on the front of newspapers," Mrs Shephard told the successful children, head teachers and governors.

"You will find the bad stories about education by far outnumber the good stories."

However, this was a good news day, she said. Her personal congratulations went out to all those present and her enthusiastic interest in each school's display undeniably helped create a feel-good factor in Flitwick.

It was not sensational, there was no great fanfare or champagne toast, but it was a public demonstration that not only negative messages come out of Ofsted.

Many teachers feel the inspection agency, via its mouthpiece and chief inspector Chris Woodhead, is responsible for at least some of the "bad stories" to which Mrs Shephard alluded. But it was Mr Woodhead's own idea to honour the very best schools annually identified by his agents. Throughout the year ministers have held similar ceremonies to deliver Ofsted "Oscars".

The three "outstanding" secondary schools at the eastern counties reception comprised two grant-maintained grammars and one county council comprehensive. There were six excellent primary schools and seven "good and improving" secondaries.

The outstanding selectives, Chelmsford County High School for Girls and Westcliff High School for Boys, both in Essex, both always prominent in examination tables, were no strangers to accolades. Neither was Presdales in Ware, Hertfordshire, the third outstanding school in the region, an oversubscribed all-girls comprehensive listed in *The Sunday Times State Schools Book* of top schools.

It is the less well-known primary and comprehensive schools which benefit most from their place on the chief inspector's pedestal.

Michael Stothard, head teacher for the past 24 years at John F. Kennedy Roman Catholic School in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, agreed that recognition was important but quibbled with the "good and improving" terminology. Ofsted-speak often seems unflatteringly low-key even when meant to praise.

"If you have 200 schools out of 4,000 selected for recognition, it should be possible to find a phrase people would respond to more warmly," he says. "To be 'outstanding' you have virtually got to be selective. I don't see any harm in using a word like excellent if the school is excellent in all aspects except for having a comprehensive intake."

He adds: "It is good that the Secretary of State is present personally. We are a pretty beleaguered profession when it comes to press and publicity and so it is encouraging that Gillian Shephard is prepared to give up an afternoon to come along and say 'well done' to schools."

Students from Sandringham School in St Albans, Hertfordshire, had little doubt that the ministerial praise, and the occasion, were welcome. Their school, created from two failing schools in 1988, has improved its examination performance every year since then and its display impressively stated its commitment to corporate ideals. The school's mission statement is "Everybody can be somebody".

> 'It is the less well-known schools which benefit'

Andrew Churchyard, 16, who attended the award ceremony, says: "It was interesting to see how these occasions work. I have not been to anything businesslike like this before. I like to pick up tips from speeches because in the future, who knows, I might have to speak in public."

And Ruth Rose, also 15, says: "I think that recognition is important because you constantly hear in the news that such-and-such a school is bad."

Steven Andrews, their head teacher, is also positive about the experience.

"There is precious little public praise for teachers, unfortunately. It is always good to have somebody saying you are doing really well but it does not produce in us a sense we have got to where we are going, or that we can rest on our laurels. We are a school committed to constant improvement."

Its nine-point "learning mission", reprinted in all pupils' homework diaries, includes the promise "we will not judge your achievements against some agreed average but will measure it against your previous best". It seemed appropriate that the school was being recognised for exactly this.

However, Mr Andrews adds: "Our teachers have just come back from a Royal Shakespeare Company weekend and we were the only co-educational comprehensive school involved, because of our commitment to Shakespeare. In some ways this was of greater benefit than being nominated as one of the best schools."

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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The Law School is seeking a suitably qualified applicant for appointment as a lecturer in Company Law. Candidates should possess a good Honours Degree in Law and a strong commitment to teaching and research. An interest in Commercial Law would be advantageous.

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For application form (Ref: 48/96) please contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ. Tel: 0141-553 4133. (If possible, please phone outwith office hours as a Voicemail Service is in operation). Applications Closing Date: 4th October 1996.

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Requests for further particulars, which should be obtained before application is made, should be addressed to the Senior Tutor's Secretary, St Anne's College, Oxford OX2 6HS. Please enclose a self-addressed envelope. The closing date for applications is 1 November 1996.

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Full particulars must be obtained by writing to the Master's Secretary, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge CB2 1TA, or by faxing 01223 332336. Telephone enquiries will not be taken. Further details are also available on http://www.cal.cam.ac.uk. Completed applications must be received by Tuesday, 26th November 1996.

The College is an equal opportunities employer.

Director of Secretariat

Applications are invited for the newly established senior post of Director of Secretariat in the Secretary's Office to take up appointment as soon as possible. The vacancy arises from a re-organisation in anticipation of the retirement of two senior administrators, the Academic Secretary and the Clerk to the Council. The Open University is the major provider of part-time distance education in the United Kingdom and the European Union. It is a world leader in the application of technology to learning.

The Director of Secretariat will have two main responsibilities: management of the decision making processes of the University and management of the Institutional Governance and Management Unit which will support key senior Officers. The University seeks a pro-active manager from those with substantial experience of administration and management at a senior level in higher education.

Salary will be within the Grade 6 range for academic related staff in universities (current minimum £31,999 p.a. under review). The initial salary will be in excess of the minimum reflecting the seniority of the appointment. The post will be based at Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. For access details for disabled applicants please contact Dee Cox on Milton Keynes (01908) 653213.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Mr D J Clinch, Secretary, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA or telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 653994 (24 hour voice mail) or (01908) 653213.

Closing date for applications: 11 October.

The Open University

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape.

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FELLOWSHIPS

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Salary: within the range of either £15,154-£19,848 or £20,677-£26,430 per annum depending on experience.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Peter Barrar at Manchester Business School on 0161-275 6476 or by e-mail to P.Barrar@fs2.mbs.ac.uk

An application form and further particulars are available from The Director of Personnel, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, tel: 0161-275 2028, fax: 0161-275 2221, e-mail:personnel@man.ac.uk, minicom (for the hearing impaired) 0161-275 7889 quoting reference number 454/96.

Closing date is Friday 4th October 1996.

Manchester Business School is committed to the University's Equal Opportunities Policy and promotes quality teaching and research. Women and members of black minority ethnic groups are presently under represented at this level at the School and applications from members of these groups are encouraged.

Appointment will be made on merit.

MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

[illegible] Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الأصل

RACING

Brave Montgomerie raises local hopes

By Richard Evans, racing correspondent

THE aptly-named Brave Montgomerie yesterday became the first Scottish-trained winner for 12 years at Ayr's popular Western meeting and raised hopes of an historic home victory in tomorrow's Ladbroke (Ayr) Gold Cup.

Linda Perratt, whose Cree Lodge yard is only ten minutes walk from Ayr racecourse, is enjoying her best season and after she landed the Holiday In Ayrshire & Arran EBF Maiden Stakes with the Most Welcome colt she began to dream of plundering Europe's richest sprint handicap.

Brave Montgomerie is owned by Colin McLaren, who lives outside Glasgow in Montgomerie Street and runs a company called Montgomerie Construction. His colours will be carried in the Ayr Gold Cup by Don't Care. The five-year-old mare is having her first run in Britain since moving to Perratt from Jim Bolger's yard in Ireland and has been backed down to 14-1 with the sponsors.

"We've never had the class of animal to go to war with at this meeting until now, but we will have nine or ten runners over the three days," Perratt said.

In 1975, Nigel Angus sent out Roman Warrior from Cree Lodge to beat Import and Lochnager in arguably the best Ayr Gold Cup and Perratt will be hoping her runner gets a high draw over the straight six furlongs.

The evidence of the first day confirmed horses drawn towards the stands' rail hold a big advantage. In the 22-runner Ladbroke Sprint Handicap, over the minimum trip, The Mick Easterby-trained Able Sheriff (drawn 15) beat horses from stalls 17, 16, and 20.

A warm September has prompted the racecourse to be watered for the first time in 17 years in the run-up to a Western meeting and, with the prospect of no significant rain, the going is unseasonally fast. If confirmation was required, it came in the Timeform Harry Roseberry Trophy in which Conspiracy broke the two-year-old five-furlong course record, which had stood since 1946.

Although Coastal Bluff, the Stewards' Cup winner and ante-post favourite for the Ayr Gold Cup, has shown his best form with give in the ground, he looks certain to line up, along with David Barron's two other entries, Musical Season and For The Present.

Bollin Joanne, 20-1 from 25-1, was the best backed horse yesterday with Ladbrokes, who bet: 6-1 Coastal Bluff, 7-1 Samwar, 10-1 Double Bounce, Double Splendour, Musical Season, Wildwood Flower, 12-1 Selhurstpark Flyer 14-1 bar.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Conspiracy sprints home in record time at Ayr yesterday

Trip will suit Fairywings

AYR

CHANNEL 4

2.35: Unless sufficient rain arrives, this ground could prove too fast for Ground Game. David Loder's galloper likes to race prominently, as does Daira, and the likely strong pace should suit the Lynda Ramsden-trained **Fairywings**. She is returning to her best trip after running well to finish second to King's Academy over a mile at Redcar last time out.

3.05: **Sandbaggedagain** is the clear form choice judged on his second to the well-regarded Al Azhar at Doncaster. **Southerly Wind** was six lengths adrift in fifth place, but that race came after an eight-week lay-off and Mrs Ramsden's runner can reverse the form with Mick Easterby's maiden.

3.35: **Miss Stamper** beat the useful Head Over Heels when winning the valuable Weatherbys Super Sprint at Newbury before landing another rich prize, the Tattersalls Breeders Stakes at the Curragh. Richard Hannon's progressive filly will take all the beating.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

4.10: The David Nicholls-trained Pride Of Pendle is the form choice on recent efforts, but is not the easiest horse to win with. It may be worth forgiving **Celebration Cake** a disappointing run at York when heavily backed. Linda Perratt's runner had previously won impressively under Jason Weaver at Haydock, and he is back on board today.

Richard Evans

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FAIRYWINGS
(2.35 Ayr)
Next best: Haltarra
(3.40 Newbury)

NEWBURY

BBC 1

2.40: **Hever Golf Rose** may not be the force of last season but she will take plenty of beating in this company. Her principal opponent is Struggler, yet she had that rival nearly three lengths adrift when third in the Nunthorpe at York last month. Amazing Bay and Ya Malak have the best of the draw.

3.10: Those with experience appear limited so it may be worth chancing that **Meshhad** lives up to her pedigree. Ben Hanbury's Gulch filly is a half-sister to the talented Jarah. Of the remainder, Siyadah is preferred to the penalised Calypso Lady.

3.40: King Sound showed potential when fourth on his Kempton debut but connections described him as lacking in confidence. **Haltarra**, who finished strongly at York recently, should thrive over this longer trip. Fallah is another promising sort but the newcomers are up against it over this straight mile.

Julian Muscat

AYR

THUNDERER

2.00 Scenicris
2.35 Daira
3.05 Sandbaggedagain
3.35 Miss Stamper
4.10 **CELEBRATION CAKE** (nap)
4.40 Catlenus
5.10 Great Oration

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) D-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — stopped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 WILLIAMS DE BROE CLAIMING STAKES (£4,403: 1m) (14 runners)

101	(13)	80	ARABIAN DESIGN 92 (Mrs R Peacock) G Moore 4-9-3	J Tate	–
102	(14)	444105	HIGH PREMIUM 6 (CD,F,6I) (J Parsons) R Fahey 8-8-3	K Darley	85
103	(5)	0-65601	PRIMA VOLTA 21 (G) (The Boardroom Syndicate) R Hannon 3-9-2	D Harrison	91
104	(12)	151015	BROCTUNE GOLD 25 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Thwaites) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-1	A Culhane	94
105	(8)	010030	EQUERRY 8 (D,F,S) (J Good) M Johnston 5-8-13	J Weaver	88
106	(1)	121361	NORTH ARDAR 11 (D,F,G) (M Rodgers) D Nicholls 6-8-13	J Bramhill (7)	97
107	(6)	401301	POWER GAME 13 (B,D,F) (Countrywide Racing) J Berry 3-8-8	J Carroll	92
108	(12)	053040	LAMBTONIAN 26 (V,D,G) (R Peables) J Eyre 7-8-5	M Fenton	57
109	(10)	123663	ROSEATE LODGE 13 (D,F,G) (J Fitch) S Kettlewell 10-8-5	Jenny Benson (7)	80
110	(7)	240340	SECONDS AWAY 22 (J Goldie) J Goldie 5-8-5	T Williams	57
111	(3)	044000	GIDDY 41 (C Barber-Lomax) J Hetherton 3-8-0	N Kennedy	79
112	(9)	004510	INDIAN RHAPSODY 41 (D,F,G,S) (G Ashton) A Bailey 4-8-0	D Wright (3)	85
113	(4)	000000	LOMOND LASSIE 4 (Mrs C Halsall) Miss J Craze 3-8-0	A Mackay	62
114	(11)	030043	SCENICRIS 23 (Mrs C Johnson) R Hollinshead 3-7-12	F Lynch (3)	88

BETTING: 7-2 Equerry, 5-1 High Premium, Broctune Gold, 6-1 Prima Volta, 7-1 North Ardar, 8-1 others.

2.35 FAUCETS FOR MEYNELL SAFEMIX THERMOSTATIC VALVES AND SHOWERS FILLIES HANDICAP (£5,952: 1m 2f) (8 runners) C4

201	(7)	2-12360	FREZELIERE 20 (F) (Lord Chelsea) J Dunlop 3-9-10	J Fortune	96
202	(3)	31-1231	GROUND GAME 20 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Fenwick) D Loder 3-9-7	K Darley	96
203	(1)	5033112	FAIRYWINGS 26 (D,F) (L and A Sigsworth) Mrs J Ramsden 3-9-7	K Fallon	89
204	(6)	4454-50	DEE-LADY 105 (F) (Mrs M Tumer) W G M Turner 4-9-6	D Sweeney (7)	92
205	(5)	421330	REBEL COUNTY 6 (D,F,G,S) (Shawsma Ice Cream Conc) A Balley 3-9-5	D Biggs	90
206	(8)	0115-5	CIRCLED 101 (S) (Mrs J Corbett) B Hills 3-9-0	J Carroll	88
207	(4)	021022	DAIRA 21 (G) (L Holliday) J Bethell 3-8-4	S Drowne	91
208	(2)	00-0230	SING AND DANCE 14 (Mrs N Napier) E Weymes 3-7-10	J Lowe	73

BETTING: 5-2 Ground Game, 11-4 Fairywings, 9-2 Daira, 5-1 Rebel County, 7-1 Frezeliere, 8-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

FREZELIERE 3l 3rd of 13 to Freedom Flame in handicap at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). GROUND GAME beat Princess Danielle ¾l in handicap at Ripon (1m 2f, soft). FAIRYWINGS 2l 2nd of 8 to King's Academy in handicap at Ripon (1m 2f, good to firm). REBEL COUNTY 6l and neck 3rd of 13 to High Summer in a handicap at Salisbury (7f, firm). DAIRA 1¼l 2nd of 9 to Gold Disc in a handicap at Thirsk (1m 4f, good to firm). Selection: FREZELIERE

3.05 LADBROKE RACING MILE NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £7,895: 1m) (10 runners) C4

301	(10)	50123	WANT Y GAMER 25 (F) (Lord Mostyn) J Berry 9-7	J Carroll	81
302	(8)	160641	STRIDE 10 (F,G) (Ladywood Racing Club) M Meade 9-1 (5ex)	D Sweeney (7)	86
303	(4)	154510	I CAN'T REMEMBER 6 (F,S) (P Graham Racing) P Evans 9-0	J F Egan	85
304	(5)	015	SOUTHERLY WIND 8 (F) (M Simmonds) Mrs J Ramsden 8-11	K Fallon	84
305	(1)	023	HURGILL DANCER 51 (Hargill Lodge Pirus) J Wates 8-9	G Duffield	80
306	(13)	3150	FOXES TAIL 25 (S) (Mrs J Hodgson) Miss S Hall 8-8	F Lynch (3)	88
307	(6)	053232	SANDBAGGEDAGAIN 8 (Mrs C Hanbury) M W Easterby 8-2	R Mullen (7)	89
308	(7)	1665	DEE PEE TEE CEE 15 (F) (Early Morning Bristol Synd) M W Easterby 8-1	L Charnock	85
309	(2)	306	BEAU ROBERTO 13 (J Morrison and Others) M Johnston 8-1	T Williams	80
310	(9)	43200	JACK SAYS 16 (Ryedale Associates) T Easterby 7-10	A Mackay	88

BETTING: 2-1 Sandbaggedagain, 5-1 Stride, 6-1 Southerly Wind, 7-1 I Can't Remember, 8-1 others

FORM FOCUS

WANT Y GAMER 2¾l 3rd in Sharp Hat in nursery at Warwick (6f, good to firm). STRIDE beat Julietta Mia 1¼l in nursery at Lingfield (7f, soft, good to firm). I CAN'T REMEMBER beat Green Jewel 1½l in nursery at Chester (7f, good to soft). SOUTHERLY WIND beat Danehill Princess ½l in maiden at Pontefract (6f, good). SANDBAGGEDAGAIN 1l 2nd to Al Azhar in nursery at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) with SOUTHERLY WIND (5lb worse) 6l 5th. Selection: SANDBAGGEDAGAIN

3.35 SHADWELL STUD FIRTH OF CLYDE STAKES (Listed race: 2-Y-O: £18,234: 6f) (6 runners) C4

401	(2)	131124	HEAD OVER HEELS 6 (F,G) (Mr R Hood) J Gosden 8-13	G Hind	99
402	(5)	01111	MISS STAMPER 20 (D,F,G) (J R Leisure Ltd) R Hannon 8-13	D Harrison	99
403	(6)	131522	OLYMPIC SPIRIT 21 (D,F) (William Hill Org) J Berry 8-11	J Carroll	88
404	(1)	12434	QUEEN SCEPTRE 26 (F) (Sceptre Racing) B Hills 8-11	K Fallon	81
405	(3)	321	SOLFEGIETTO 18 (G) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Bell 8-8	M Fenton	78
406	(4)	12	SONG OF SKYE 50 (F) (E Ferarolli) T Naughton 8-8	J Weaver	78

BETTING: 2-1 Miss Stamper, 11-4 Head Over Heels, 3-1 Olympic Spirit, 5-1 Queen Sceptre, 10-1 Solfegietto, Song Of Skye.

FORM FOCUS

HEAD OVER HEELS 3l 4th of 7 to Easycall in group II Polypipe PLC Flying Children Stakes at Doncaster (5f, good to firm). Earlier beat OLYMPIC SPIRIT (2lb better off) short-head in 9-runner listed race at Newbury (5f, good) with QUEEN SCEPTRE (2lb better off) 2½l 3rd. MISS STAMPER beat Paddy Lad 3l in 30-runner conditions race at the Curragh (6f, good to yielding). OLYMPIC SPIRIT 5l 2nd of 6 to Sambac in conditions race at Chester (6f, good to soft). QUEEN SCEPTRE 7½l 4th of 5 to Red Camellia in group III Crowson Prestige Stakes at Goodwood (7f, good). SOLFEGIETTO beat Night Flight head in 7-runner maiden at Hamilton (5f, good). SONG OF SKYE beat Mayflower 1¾l in maiden at Newbury (5f, good to firm). Selection: HEAD OVER HEELS (nap)

4.10 LADBROKES AYRSHIRE HANDICAP (£22,013: 1m) (18 runners) C4

501	(7)	051110	MINA 6 (D,BF,F,G) (Mrs D Schreiber) M Johnston 4-10-1 (5ex)	K Slad (7)	97
502	(12)	205800	TERTIUM 6 (D,F) (W Smith) M Wane 4-9-12	J Carroll	93
503	(9)	200100	QUEENS CONSUL 6 (D,F,G) (Miss H Dawson) B Rothwell 6-9-8	M Fenton	97
504	(2)	642111	GIVE ME A RING 46 (D,F,G) (G Reed) C Thornton 3-8-5	J Fortune	91
505	(14)	000200	KING RAT B (F,G) (P Daniels) T Etherington 5-9-4	J Tate	90
506	(1)	060064	KALA SUNRISE 7 (F) (A Headland) C Smith 3-9-4	K Darley	89
507	(17)	0/10-050	SHARP PROSPECT 13 (D,F,S) (Future Prospections) V Soane 6-9-2	R Cochrane	91
508	(16)	211226	HAWKSLEY HILL 6 (D,BF,F,G) (H Alexander) Mrs J Ramsden 3-9-1	K Fallon	93
509	(10)	144-000	SOME HORSE 82 (6,S) (Ardenhall Hombres) M Meagher 3-9-1	A Culhane	93
510	(8)	421340	SCARABEN 6 (CD,F,G,S) (J Tennant) S Kettlewell 8-8-12	J Stack	96
511	(15)	345431	QUILLING B (F) (A Watson) M Dods 4-8-10 (5ex)	F Lynch (3)	91
512	(18)	D-00123	COUREUR 55J (D,F,S) (F Hanson) M Hammond 7-8-9	D Harrison	89
513	(3)	021210	CELEBRATION CAKE 16 (CD,BF,F) (Lightbody Ltd) Miss L Perratt 4-8-9	J Weaver	97
514	(13)	616521	KING CURAN 18 (B,CD,F,G,S) (H O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 5-8-7	A Mackay	93
515	(3)	506023	PRIDE OF PENDLE 6 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Miller) D Nicholls 7-8-5	Alex Greaves	98
516	(5)	204030	SPANISH VERDICT 17 (D,F,G,S) (Cox & Allen Ltd) Denys Smith 9-8-3	G Duffield	94
517	(4)	031241	RET FREM 20U (D,F) (Mr & Mrs R Emery) C Parker 3-8-3	G Hind	91
518	(11)	621410	BURD SCEPTIC 15 (B,D,F,G) (C Stevens) T Easterby 4-7-13	D Wright (3)	97

BETTING: 11-2 Mina, 6-1 Hawksley Hill, 7-1 Pride Of Pendle, 8-1 Give Me A Ring, 10-1 Kala Sunrise, Scaraben, Tertium, 14-1 Celebration Cake, King Curan, Quilling, 16-1 Sharp Prospect, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

MINA beat Clan Ben 6l in 11-runner handicap at Epsom (1m 2f, good to firm). GIVE ME A RING beat Kaman 1¼l in 8-runner handicap at Ripon (1m 1f, good to firm). KALA SUNRISE 7½l 4th of 9 to Kammtarra in conditions race at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). HAWKSLEY HILL 1¼l 2nd of 11 to Assassin in handicap at Pontefract (1m, good to firm). QUILLING beat Wardara head in 19-runner handicap at Doncaster (7f, good to firm) with KING RAT (5lb better off) 1¾l 14th. CELEBRATION CAKE beat Falcon's Flame 3l in 12-runner handicap at Haydock (1m, good to firm). KING CURAN beat Racing Brenda 3l in 15-runner handicap at Hamilton (1m 65yd, good). PRIDE OF PENDLE ½l 3rd of 25 to Gladys Althorpe in handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) with HAWKSLEY HILL (1lb worse off) 1¼l 6th. TERTIUM (1lb worse off) ¾l 8th. SCARABEN (1lb worse off) 2l 10th and QUEENS CONSUL (1lb worse off) 12½l 24th. Selection: CELEBRATION CAKE

4.40 CLARENDON CARPETS GROUP CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,581: 7f) (6 runners)

601	(3)	254126	MULIOYA 20 (F) (J Graham) R Hollinshead 9-4	F Lynch (3)	96
602	(6)	525104	HALOWINS 9 (F) (R Trontz) P Kelleway 8-13	J Weaver	89
603	(4)	5	CATIENUS 14 (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 8-12	K Darley	88
604	(5)	4	HIGHWAY 13 (G Reed) B Hills 8-12	K Fallon	81
605	(2)	542214	WHAT HAPPENED WAS 38 (F) (Beyts Livestock Ltd) M Meade 8-11	D Sweeney (7)	79
606	(1)	0	CORAL STRAND 43 (C Golding) J Wates 8-7	J Carroll	–

BETTING: 2-1 Catienus, 5-2 Halowing, 4-1 Highway, 5-1 Mulioya, 8-1 What Happened Was, 16-1 Coral Strand.

4.10 LADBROKES AYRSHIRE HANDICAP (£22,013: 1m) (18 runners) C4

501	(7)	051110	MINA 6 (D,BF,F,G) (Mrs D Schreiber) M Johnston 4-10-1 (5ex)	K Slad (7)	97
502	(12)	205800	TERTIUM 6 (D,F) (W Smith) M Wane 4-9-12	J Carroll	93
503	(9)	200100	QUEENS CONSUL 6 (D,F,G) (Miss H Dawson) B Rothwell 6-9-8	M Fenton	97
504	(2)	642111	GIVE ME A RING 46 (D,F,G) (G Reed) C Thornton 3-8-5	J Fortune	91
505	(14)	000200	KING RAT B (F,G) (P Daniels) T Etherington 5-9-4	J Tate	90
506	(1)	060064	KALA SUNRISE 7 (F) (A Headland) C Smith 3-9-4	K Darley	89
507	(17)	0/10-050	SHARP PROSPECT 13 (D,F,S) (Future Prospections) V Soane 6-9-2	R Cochrane	91
508	(16)	211226	HAWKSLEY HILL 6 (D,BF,F,G) (H Alexander) Mrs J Ramsden 3-9-1	K Fallon	93
509	(10)	144-000	SOME HORSE 82 (6,S) (Ardenhall Hombres) M Meagher 3-9-1	A Culhane	93
510	(8)	421340	SCARABEN 6 (CD,F,G,S) (J Tennant) S Kettlewell 8-8-12	J Stack	96
511	(15)	345431	QUILLING B (F) (A Watson) M Dods 4-8-10 (5ex)	F Lynch (3)	91
512	(18)	D-00123	COUREUR 55J (D,F,S) (F Hanson) M Hammond 7-8-9	D Harrison	89
513	(3)	021210	CELEBRATION CAKE 16 (CD,BF,F) (Lightbody Ltd) Miss L Perratt 4-8-9	J Weaver	97
514	(13)	616521	KING CURAN 18 (B,CD,F,G,S) (H O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 5-8-7	A Mackay	93
515	(3)	506023	PRIDE OF PENDLE 6 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Miller) D Nicholls 7-8-5	Alex Greaves	98
516	(5)	204030	SPANISH VERDICT 17 (D,F,G,S) (Cox & Allen Ltd) Denys Smith 9-8-3	G Duffield	94
517	(4)	031241	RET FREM 20U (D,F) (Mr & Mrs R Emery) C Parker 3-8-3	G Hind	91
518	(11)	621410	BURD SCEPTIC 15 (B,D,F,G) (C Stevens) T Easterby 4-7-13	D Wright (3)	97

BETTING: 11-2 Mina, 6-1 Hawksley Hill, 7-1 Pride Of Pendle, 8-1 Give Me A Ring, 10-1 Kala Sunrise, Scaraben, Tertium, 14-1 Celebration Cake, King Curan, Quilling, 16-1 Sharp Prospect, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

MINA beat Clan Ben 6l in 11-runner handicap at Epsom (1m 2f, good to firm). GIVE ME A RING beat Kaman 1¼l in 8-runner handicap at Ripon (1m 1f, good to firm). KALA SUNRISE 7½l 4th of 9 to Kammtarra in conditions race at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). HAWKSLEY HILL 1¼l 2nd of 11 to Assassin in handicap at Pontefract (1m, good to firm). QUILLING beat Wardara head in 19-runner handicap at Doncaster (7f, good to firm) with KING RAT (5lb better off) 1¾l 14th. CELEBRATION CAKE beat Falcon's Flame 3l in 12-runner handicap at Haydock (1m, good to firm). KING CURAN beat Racing Brenda 3l in 15-runner handicap at Hamilton (1m 65yd, good). PRIDE OF PENDLE ½l 3rd of 25 to Gladys Althorpe in handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) with HAWKSLEY HILL (1lb worse off) 1¼l 6th. TERTIUM (1lb worse off) ¾l 8th. SCARABEN (1lb worse off) 2l 10th and QUEENS CONSUL (1lb worse off) 12½l 24th. Selection: CELEBRATION CAKE

4.40 CLARENDON CARPETS GROUP CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,581: 7f) (6 runners)

601	(3)	254126	MULIOYA 20 (F) (J Graham) R Hollinshead 9-4	F Lynch (3)	96
602	(6)	525104	HALOWINS 9 (F) (R Trontz) P Kelleway 8-13	J Weaver	89
603	(4)	5	CATIENUS 14 (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 8-12	K Darley	88
604	(5)	4	HIGHWAY 13 (G Reed) B Hills 8-12	K Fallon	81
605	(2)	542214	WHAT HAPPENED WAS 38 (F) (Beyts Livestock Ltd) M Meade 8-11	D Sweeney (7)	79
606	(1)	0	CORAL STRAND 43 (C Golding) J Wates 8-7	J Carroll	–

BETTING: 2-1 Catienus, 5-2 Halowing, 4-1 Highway, 5-1 Mulioya, 8-1 What Happened Was, 16-1 Coral Strand.

5.10 ROBERT WYPER MOTORS HANDICAP (£5,010: 2m 1f 105yd) (12 runners)

1	(5)	511114	RUSHEN RAIDER 9 (F) (Mrs T Whitley) K Hogg 4-9-13	L Charnock	95
2	(11)	0/0/	OAWADAR 650J (6,S) (J Goldie) J Goldie 9-9-10	G Lee (5)	–
3	(6)	45-1004	GOOD HAND 20J (C,F,G) (Uncle Jacks Pub) S Kettlewell 10-9-5	J Carroll	93
4	(3)	102621	UNCLE DOUG 24 (F,S) (D Sault) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-2	A Culhane	95
5	(12)	114206	SHIRLEY SUE 6 (F,G) (Greenland Park Ltd) M Johnston 3-8-13	J Weaver	86
6	(11)	313153	GREAT 'DIARTION 37 (D,F) (Sir Hethersington Ltd) T Watson 7-8-9	K Fallon	94
7	(9)	511600	ZAMHAREER 24 (G) (D Batey) W Storey 5-8-8	Iona Wands (7)	91
8	(4)	3000-00	KEEN TO THE LAST 13 (D Allen, S Balmer) M Hammond 4-8-7	J Carroll	97
9	(2)	00-3412	STAR PERFORMER 11 (D,BF,S) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-6	K Darley	89
10	(10)	212524	PHILMIST 62 (B,BF,G) (C Barber-Lomax) W Elsey 4-8-3	N Kennedy	94
11	(7)	214306	ALWAROA 35 (F) (J Barton) D Nicholls 3-8-3	A Mackay	95
12	(8)	0/63344	PALACE OF GOLD 134 (BF) (G Hamilton) L Lungo 6-7-10	T Williams	89

Long handicap: Palace Of Gold 7-7

BETTING: 11-4 Uncle Doug, 3-1 Shirley Sue, 7-2 Good Hand, 6-1 Rushen Raider, Star Performer, 10-1 Great Diartion, 12-1 others.

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Newbury: 2.10 Merciless Cop 2.40 Crofters Ceilidh, Top Banana. 4.15 Children's Choice.

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.10 Bali Paradise
2.40 Hever Golf Rose
3.10 Dulcinea
3.40 Haltarra
4.15 Children's Choice
4.45 Safey Ana
5.15 Scarpetta

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 **HEVER GOLF ROSE**.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 **HALTARRA** (nap). 4.45 Anastina.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M STR, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.10 HOME STUD NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £5,712: 7f 64yd rnd) (13 runners)

1	(7)	2154	LARGESSE 37 (F) (Mrs R Moszkowicz) John Berry 9-7	M Rimmer	90
2	(1)	136	BALI PARADISE 30 (S) (Al Maktoum Partners) P Cole 9-6	T Quinn	85
3	(10)	3131	JERFREY ANOTHERRED 14 (F,G) (Highgrove Ltd) K McAuliffe 9-0	R Hughes	98
4	(9)	06168	DICKIE BIRD 7 (D,F) (G Tee) R Hannon 8-13	Pat Eddery	94
5	(4)	03313	SALTY JACK 7 (F) (Salts Of The Earth) S Dow 8-12	A Daly (5)	94
6	(11)	354	EUROLINK SPARTACUS 26 (Eurolink Group) J Dunlop 8-12	L Dettori	84
7	(2)	01	INTERDREAM 17 (D,F) (C Fen) R Hannon 8-10	Dane O'Neill	88
8	(5)	51	CERTAIN MAGIC 20 (S) (Delamere Partners) W Mur 8-6	J Reid	89
9	(13)	005	HOMESTEAD 25 (G Greenwood) R Hannon 8-1	S Sanders	88
10	(6)	655	TALISMAN 79 (X Pullen) S Dow 8-1	J Quinn	88
11	(12)	60455	BAPSFORD 14 (C Pennick) G L Moore 8-0	C Rutter	61
12	(3)	64540	STRAT'S QUEST 10 (J Blumenow) D Arbuthnot 7-13	Martin Dwyer (5)	90
13	(8)	0300	MERCILESS COP 17 (B) (M Lanbrecht) B Meehan 7-10	Martin Dwyer (5)	93

BETTING: 4-1 Jalfrey Anotherred, 5-1 Interdream, 8-1 Bali Paradise, 7-1 Largesse, Eurolink Spartacus, 8-1 Salty Jack, 10-1 Certain Magic, 12-1 others.

2.40 TONY STRATTON SMITH MEMORIAL CONDITIONS STAKES (£7,663: 5f 34yd) (9 runners) BBC1

1	(7)	040-410	AVERTI 62 (D,F,G) (D Deer) W Muir 5-9-4	J Reid	78
2	(2)	412026	STRUGGLER 29 (D,F,G) (Sir A Lloyd Webber) D Loder 4-9-4	L Dettori	85
3	(6)	231003	TOP BANANA 20 (B,CD,F,G) (M Wyatt) H Candy 5-9-0	C Rutter	84
4	(8)	555035	YA MALAK 55 (D,F,S,G) (G Jebre) I Balding 5-9-0	A McGlone	80
5	(1)	265120	BOWDEN ROSE 16 (B,D,F,G) (Mrs C Ward) M Blanshard 4-8-13	J Quinn	80
6	(3)	040000	CROFTERS CEILIDH 20 (B,D,F) (Mrs M Meddings) B McMahon 4-8-9	S Sanders	67
7	(5)	232324	HEVER GOLF ROSE 13 (D,F,S,G) (Hever Racing) T Naughton 5-8-9	Pat Eddery	87
8	(9)	020202	AMAZING BAY 9 (CD,F) (J Smith) I Balding 3-8-8	T Quinn	84
9	(4)	301000	KUNUCU 20 (D,F,G) (P Saint) T Barron 3-8-8	M Hills	75

BETTING: 5-4 Hever Golf Rose, 5-1 Struggler, 6-1 Amazing Bay, 8-1 Ya Malak, Averti, 10-1 Top Banana, 14-1 Bowden Rose 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

AVERTI beat Montesacro 1½l in a 6-runner conditions race at Haydock (6f, good). STRUGGLER 2l 2nd of 9 to Lucky Parkes in a listed race at Deauville (5f, good). TOP BANANA 2¾l 3rd of 13 to Crowded Avenue in a handicap at Sandown (5f, good) with KUNUCU (2lb better off) 7¾l 11th. BOWDEN ROSE neck 2nd of 9 to Lucky Parkes in a conditions race at Lingfield (5f, good to soft) with AMAZING BAY (2lb better off) 4¾l 7th. HEVER GOLF ROSE 2¾l 4th of 11 to Alamal in the group I Ingrebeck Park Sprint Cup (6f, good to firm) AMAZING BAY head 2nd of 9 to Anzio in a listed race at Doncaster (5f, good). Selection: HEVER GOLF ROSE

3.10 POLYGRAM MONSTER COLLECTION FILLIES CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £6,416: 7f str) (10 runners) BBC1

1	(2)	1	CALYPSO LADY 13 (G) (Mrs D Wight) R Hannon 8-13	R Perham	89
2	(7)		DULCINEA (Miss K Rausing) I Balding 8-8	Pat Eddery	–
3	(6)		ENTICE (Sheikh Mohammed) B Hills 8-8	B Doyle	–
4	(4)	03	ETOILE 10 (I S Racing) P Chapple-Hyam 8-8	J Reid	90
5	(5)		MESHHED (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hanbury 8-8	W Carson	–
6	(1)		MY VALENTINA (D Deer) B Hills 8-8	M Hills	–
7	(9)		NICK OF TIME (Mrs D Abbott) J Dunlop 8-8	T Sprake	–
8	(3)	3	SIYADAH 27 (Hamdan Al Maktoum) S bin Suroor 8-8	R Hills	96
9	(8)	23	SLEEPLESS 36 (BF) (Mrs A Scotney) H Graham 8-8	T Quinn	97
10	(10)		WILL YOU DANCE (Mrs M Burrell) J Dunlop 8-8	W Ryan	–

BETTING: 3-1 Siyadah, 7-2 Calypso Lady, 5-1 Sleepless, 6-1 Dulcinea, 8-1 My Valentina, 10-1 Will You Dance, 12-1 Etoile, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

CALYPSO LADY beat Flourishing Way 9¼l in maiden at Kempton (6f, good) ENTICE (bolted Mix 2). By Selkirk, dam Swiss-raced half-sister to Blushing Groom. ETOILE 2l 3rd of 12 to Indilwish in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm). MY VALENTINA (Feb 14). By Royal Academy, sister to fairly useful Jarah, 7f juvenile winner later successful over 1m, dam winning sprinter. SIYADAH 9¼l 3rd of 7 to Fleet River in maiden at Goodwood (7f, good). WILL YOU DANCE (Feb 11). By Shareef Dancer, half-sister to useful males Polar Boy, dam unraced. No selection

3.40 HAYNES, HANSON AND CLARK CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O colts and geldings: £9,223: 1m str) (9 runners) BBC1

1	(2)		BAUBIGNY (R Brisbourt) M Channon 8-10	R Hughes	–
2	(4)		BURUNDI (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-10	J Reid	–
3	(3)	0	FALLAH 34 (H Al Maktoum) W Hern 8-10	W Carson	85
4	(5)	2	HALTARRA 16 (BF) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-10	L Dettori	89
5	(7)		HINT (Highclere Ltd) P Cole 8-10	Pat Eddery	–
6	(8)	4	KING SOUND 14 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-10	W Ryan	80
7	(9)		RAINWATCH (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 8-10	T Sprake	–
8	(1)		SLIP THE NET (J Guttin) P C

CRICKET

Kent's title challenge dismissed by Walsh

BY SIMON WILDE

BRISTOL (first day of four: Kent won toss): Gloucestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs behind Kent

NOW get out of that. Kent, bottom of the county championship for the first time this century last year, have trodden an implausible and romantic path in attempting to make amends by finishing top this summer, but they are rapidly running out of escape routes after a poor day's work at the Phoenix County Ground yesterday.

After taking the questionable decision to bat first, they were all out by mid-afternoon for 154 and, with the honourable exception of Trevor Ward, who batted skilfully for 3½ hours for 86, did not look like champions-in-waiting. Ironically, Gloucestershire did. Their bowling was disciplined and their fielding sharp, Russell taking three outstanding catches.

It was Kent's lowest total of the season, possibly their most inept batting performance, as well, and, with four batting points squandered, they are now even more at the mercy of Leicestershire, who need to claim only two batting points today to eliminate them from the title race.

That said, Kent are not without hope of winning this match because it is being staged on what can only be described as a sporting pitch. With Llong bowled by a ball that kept low from one end and the tall McCague struck on the helmet by Walsh at the other, batting was more a matter of survival than comfort.

Windows and Trainor, the Gloucestershire openers, negotiated 12 overs before tea and four balls afterwards, not without a few difficulties, before bad light ended play for the day, and McCague, Headley and Ealham will relish the prospect of continuing the bowling today.

Kent had batted only minutes before they must have had second thoughts about taking first innings. Walker falling to the last ball of Walsh's first over, leg-before to a full-pitched delivery. The last thing that they wanted was Walsh, the West Indies captain, on the rampage and, although Fleming and Ward coped well to keep him at bay for the rest of his opening spell, he wreaked havoc after lunch.

By then Kent were already in desperate straits, having fallen prey to the gentler pace of Alleyne and Symonds. Alleyne accounted for Fleming, who steered a ball tamely to Lynch at second slip, and Symonds, normally a purveyor of off spin but now dispensing tidy, medium-paced leg cutters, dispatched Hooper and Llong in the same over. Ealham, driving at Smith, gave the thinnest of outside edges, which Russell plucked out of the sky to his right.

Kent lunched precariously on 94 for five, which soon became 101 for eight. Walsh, seeing the breach, immediately raised his game after the interval and, in the space of six balls, had claimed the scalps of Cowdrey, playing his first championship game for ten weeks, Marsh and Patel.

McCague then gamely added 49 with Ward, who had seen seven partners depart in 25 overs, in the highest partnership of the innings, and coped well enough to raise doubts about Ward's tactics in turning down singles in order to protect his partner. In the end, Ward perished looking to make hay against Alleyne.

The admirable Walsh finished with four for 50, making him the leading wicket-taker in the country with 81 victims. Gloucestershire have offered him another two-year contract and he is likely to accept, having yesterday discounted West Indies Cricket Board plans to place its leading players on year-round contracts. "I don't think they have got the money to implement it at the moment," he said.

Officials at Lord's confirmed yesterday that Ed Giddins, the former Sussex fast bowler, is to appeal against his 20-month ban from first-class cricket. Giddins, who tested positive for cocaine in May, will have his case heard by the Cricket Council. He had hoped to rebuild his career by playing abroad, but has been unable to find a club.

DAVID JONES



Mullally, of Leicestershire, wins his appeal for the wicket of Shah, leg-before in the match against Middlesex yesterday. Report, page 44

Lancashire earn credit for national service

BY IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire have scored 233 for seven wickets against Lancashire

SO LANCASHIRE are having almost as much of a struggle to find a coach as Manchester City are in attracting a manager. At least the cricket club cannot be charged with not looking to the future. Without Mike Watkinson, who is in Hong Kong, and Michael Atherton who, in effect, is now employed by the England selectors, John Crawley was captain for the first time — and with some success.

Only Burns made a score of note for Warwickshire, who remain, for the time being, county champions. Whoever Crawley turned to came up with a wicket, which suggested that he had either an alchemist's touch or the luck that every captain needs. It was not difficult to tell from the various modes of dismissal just why Warwickshire are offering Speak, the Lancashire batsman, the chance to join them.

Speak, 29, has been told by Lancashire that he can leave if he wishes to do so. It is a time for urgent decision-making at Old Trafford, where the pitches have lost some pace and will be attended to during the winter. Nothing is more important, though, than the appointment of a prominent individual as coach. The committee, which met on Wednesday night, is determined to bring in somebody of international repute.

Having been spurned by Graham Gooch and Dennis Lillee, the committee could well look towards South Africa. Inquiries before the season about Jimmy Cook, once a prolific opening batsman, came to nothing, and the latest name to be mooted is Clive Rice, who runs the cricket academy. He would not come cheap.

As for the captaincy, Watkinson, who is representing England in the Hong Kong sixes, is mulling over whether he wants to continue. Wasim Akram, who will return next summer, could become vice-captain in place of Atherton.

At the members' forum, which the club has agreed to stage on October 1, there will inevitably be concerns raised over the fact that Atherton will be allowed to rest during some championship matches next year, just as he was yesterday. To which Bob Bennett, the Lancashire chairman, will reply that it is the duty of a county to help England's cause.

Assuming that Atherton plays regularly for England next summer, he will, anyway, miss six championship matches. This year he has played in eight. Some members will, understandably, want to know how Lancashire can make any headway in what, even at a club which has had so much success in the one-day game, remains the pre-eminent competition.

Atherton will take a benefit next year. Although, as with most prominent cricketers, this will be a nationwide affair, his absences will hardly assist fundraising at Old Trafford. He clearly needs periods of recuperation, yet Lancashire have need of him. It is greatly to their credit, considering that they are languishing near the foot of the championship table, that they are putting country before club.

Doleful Durham cut down by DeFreitas

BY PAT GIBSON

DERBY (first day of four: Durham won toss): Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are six runs behind Durham

DERBYSHIRE may no longer be in contention for the Britannic Assurance county championship, but there is still the little matter of prize-money to play for. They can increase their earnings from £9,000 to £30,000 by climbing from fifth place to second, and that was all the incentive they needed yesterday to show hapless Durham no mercy.

A delayed start and five stoppages for either rain or bad light took 29 overs from an autumnal day, yet Derbyshire still have every reason to believe that they can beat the weather after bowling out Durham for 142 and then scoring 136 for two in reply from only 27 overs.

Nothing illustrated the difference in the fortunes of these two sides than the poignant sight of John Morris gazing wistfully across the ground where he learnt his cricket and wondering whether he would ever be able to recapture the form that brought him more than the 14,000 runs in 12 years with Derbyshire and another 3,700 in his first two seasons at Durham.

He was the first of five victims yesterday for Phillip DeFreitas, whose control of seam and swing in the howling easterly wind which bent the poplar trees that are supposed to protect two sides of the ground was altogether too much for Durham.

Morris had made five when he edged DeFreitas to second slip, which means that he has now scored 70 in his past 11 championship innings and only 410, at an average of 15, all season. "I have just got to forget this year and come back and score a stack of runs next season," he said.

It is to be hoped that the rest of the Durham side share his optimism. Without Sherwin Campbell, their discarded overseas player who is already on his way home, and Darren Blenkiron, who has been suspended over an alleged incident in which two club cars were damaged, they looked as though they could hardly wait for the season to end, especially when Chris Adams, with 77 off 56 balls, including 13 fours and a six, and Dean Jones were adding 89 in 15 overs for the third Derbyshire wicket.

☐ Shane Warne, the leg-spin bowler, has only a 50-50 chance of being fit for Australia's tour to India next month, according to John Scholes, the Victoria coach. Warne, who is recovering from surgery to a finger on his right hand, has been restricted to bowling medium-pace in pre-season practice sessions.

Laney caps outstanding season

BY GEOFFREY WHEELER

JASON LANEY, whose emergence has been a consoling factor in a disappointing campaign for Hampshire, was awarded his county cap yesterday and celebrated by scoring an unbeaten 76 at Southampton, where Hampshire reached 213 for two against Nottinghamshire.

Laney, who has scored more than a thousand runs in his first full season, added 147 for the first wicket with Giles White, which was only the county's second century opening stand of the season. Paul Franks, the Nottinghamshire newcomer, dismissed White for 73 and Paul Whitaker without scoring, before Laney settled in with Robin Smith, his eyes set on his third century in successive matches.

Michael Vaughan, the Yorkshire opening batsman, will need only five more runs to complete his third century of the summer when the game with Northamptonshire resumes. Yorkshire, sixth in the table, had reached 213 for three from 64 overs when the weather closed in.

Vaughan, with an England A tour to Australia to look forward to, has so far hit a six and 12 fours and shared an opening stand of 112 in 29 overs with Martyn Moxon. When 22, Vaughan completed his thousand for the season.

Andrew Caddick, with five for 55 in 14 overs, was mainly responsible for Sussex being dismissed for 141 at Hove, where Somerset have reached 45 for one in reply.

The match began in unpromisingly fashion for Caddick, the England fast bowler, who was struck for four early boundaries by Neil Lenham; but, once the opening batsman had fallen to a rash pull to square leg, Caddick and Shane Lee (four for 52) assumed control, delayed only by an eighth-wicket partnership of 63 in 18 overs between Peter Moores and Danny Law.

☐ Hashan Tillekeratne hit his fifth Test century but his first on home soil as Sri Lanka moved into a strong position in the second Test against Zimbabwe in Colombo. His 100 not out has occupied 335 minutes and guided Sri Lanka to 317 for seven, a lead of 176.

Gooch does the foundation work

BY JACK BAILEY

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex have scored 148 for one wicket against Glamorgan

IT WAS a reassuring and familiar scene for the few Essex faithful who turned out on a windswept, rainy day: Graham Gooch building an innings, Nasser Hussain in full flight, the two of them in an unfinished stand of 115 from 29 overs, both in the sixties when bad light and rain brought the day's play to an early end after only 40 overs had been bowled.

You had to feel sorry for Glamorgan. It was a bad toss to lose. Although some moisture from the heavy morning rain, which cost 37 overs at the start, might have aided early movement, there were few signs of this as Gooch settled in. The conditions were numbing to the fingers, the ball soon became damp. Gooch was intent on a big score. After Grayson had been caught behind for 12, Hussain was soon into his stride and the bowlers were on a hiding to nothing.

Gooch must have been close to being leg-before from the first ball bowled by the promising Parkin, who has a high, easy action. It brought a loud shout from Glamorgan and a long look from umpire Julian. Otherwise, the old boy looked in full command.

Robert Croft's off spin commanded respect from Gooch and Hussain. The same could not be said of poor David Hemp's medium pacers. He went for 28 off two overs in which he bowled five no-balls. The bulk of Hussain's eight fours came from Hemp, whose early introduction, after bowling only 18 previous overs this season, was something of a mystery.

Hussain struck the ball with great authority through the off side, off both front foot and back. This has been a wonderful season for him. As for Gooch, with seven centuries and seven other scores above 50 to his credit this season, the last thing Essex will want is for him to be ruled out of the running next year by taking over as chairman of the England selectors.

IN BRIEF

Wales leave Rush out of squad for Holland

IAN RUSH'S international football career appeared to be over yesterday, when he was again left out of the Wales squad, this time for the World Cup qualifying match against Holland in Cardiff on October 5 (Russell Kempson writes).

Rush, the Leeds United striker, has not played for his country since the 3-0 defeat by Italy in January, when he was replaced in the 64th minute. After voicing his displeasure at the decision of Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, Rush, 34, missed the next two matches and relations between the pair became further strained when Gould also omitted him from the squad for the 6-0 victory over San Marino at the National Stadium last month.

For the visit of Holland, the group seven favourites who entertain Wales in November, Gould is likely to replace the suspended Ryan Giggs with Gary Speed. John Hartson, the Arsenal forward, has been promoted from the Wales under-21 side.

Chelsea were given a double boost yesterday when Ruud Gullit, their player manager, returned to training and then signed Frode Grodas, a Norwegian goalkeeper, on loan to cover for the injured Dmitri Kharine. Gullit has yet to play this season after knee surgery.

Eubank concern

Boxing: Putting on "the style on the Nile" — Chris Eubank's first comeback contest, in Cairo — could prove a tougher assignment for Eubank, the former world champion, than he imagined it would be when he decided to resume his career.

Yesterday he brushed aside rumours that his bout with Luis Barrera, of Argentina, in the 25,000-capacity Cairo stadium on October 19, could turn out to be another "Hong Kong", where the bouts of Frank Bruno and Herbie Hide had to be called off at the last minute because of a lack of funds. A big television company is still being sought to buy the rights to the contest.

John in action

Rugby union: Jason John, a former Great Britain sprinter, will make his debut for Moseley in the Courage Clubs Championship second division against Nottingham at The Reddings tomorrow. Moseley have dropped Andy Houston, the captain, Carl Hall, Craig Quick and Stuart Langley.

Zulle gets away

Cycling: Alex Zulle, the Swiss rider waiting in the wings to take over the mantle of Tony Rominger, his compatriot who is now nearing retirement, finished third in the twelfth stage of the Tour of Spain yesterday to increase his overall lead. The 188-kilometre stage ended in a mountain-top finish at Alto Naranco and was won by Daniele Nardello, of Italy, who, at one time with three others, had almost six minutes' advantage over the main pack.

Club company

Rugby league: Super League clubs yesterday unveiled a new company, Rugby League (Europe) Limited, which will look after their interests in future — but stressed that they are not breaking away from the Rugby Football League.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Glamorgan

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex have scored 148 for one wicket against Glamorgan

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gooch not out	62
A P Grayson c Shaw b Watkin	12
N Hussain not out	60
Extras (lb 4, nb 10)	14
Total (1 wkt, 40.2 overs)	148

S G Law, *P J Prichard, R C Irani, †R J Rollins, M C Ilott, A P Cowan, S J W Andrew and P M Such to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-33.

BOWLING: Watkin 10-3-33-1; Parkin 9-0-25-0; Hemp 2-0-28-0, Dale 6-1-23-0; Croft 10.2-2-25-0; Cosker 3-0-10-0.

GLAMORGAN: S P James, H Morris, D L Hemp, *M P Maynard, P A Cottey, A Dale, †A D Shaw, R D B Croft, D A Cosker, S L Watkin, O T Parkin

Umpires: J W Holder and R Julian

Derbyshire v Durham

DERBY (first day of four, Durham won toss): Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are six runs behind Durham

DURHAM: First Innings

S Hutton c Adams b Malcolm	19
J E Morris c Adams b DeFreitas	5
J A Daley c Adams b DeFreitas	35
M A Roseberry lbw b DeFreitas	2
P D Collingwood c Krikken b DeFreitas	5
†D G C Jones b DeFreitas	0
D M Cox c Jones b Harris	22
M M Betts b Dean	32
*S J E Brown c Adams b Harris	3
M J Saggers b Harris	12
A Walker not out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 1)	6
Total (45.1 overs)	142

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-38, 3-47, 4-67, 5-67, 6-80, 7-104, 8-117, 9-135

BOWLING: Malcolm 11-2-41-1; DeFreitas 21-2-60-6; Harris 12.4-32-3; Dean 1.1-0-4-1

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

K J Barnett c Ligertwood b Betts	16
A S Rollins lbw b Betts	4
C J Adams not out	77
*D M Jones not out	39
Total (2 wkts, 27 overs)	136

T J G O'Gorman, C M Wells, P A J DeFreitas, †K M Krikken, A J Harris, K J Dean and D E Malcolm to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-47

BOWLING: Brown 9-1-39-0; Betts 10-0-50-2; Walker 5-1-24-0; Saggers 3-0-23-0.

Bonus points: Derbyshire 4 Durham 0

Umpires: J C Balderstone and J H Harris.

Gloucestershire v Kent

BRISTOL (first day of four; Kent won toss): Gloucestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs behind Kent

KENT: First Innings

M V Fleming c Lynch b Alleyne	21
M J Walker lbw b Walsh	0
T R Ward c Walsh b Alleyne	86
C L Hooper lbw b Symonds	6
N J Llong b Symonds	0
M A Ealham c Russell b Smith	11
G R Cowdrey c Bell b Walsh	4
*†S A Marsh c Russell b Walsh	0
M M Patel c Russell b Walsh	0
M J McCague not out	12
D W Headley c Russell b Smith	1
Extras (lb 4, w 1, nb 8)	13
Total (58.4 overs)	154

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-49, 3-62, 4-62, 5-87, 6-101, 7-101, 8-101, 9-150.

BOWLING: Walsh 15-3-50-4; Smith 14.4-5-36-2; Alleyne 10-1-30-2; Symonds 17-6-31-2; Ball 3-2-3-0.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

N J Trainor not out	6
M G N Windows not out	2
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (no wkt, 12.4 overs)	9

A Symonds, M A Lynch, R I Dawson, M W Alleyne, †R C Russell, R P Davis, A M Smith, M C J Ball and *C A Walsh to bat.

BOWLING: McCague 6-4-5-0; Headley 4 4-2-3-0, Ealham 2-2-0-0.

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 4 Kent 0.

Umpires: D J Constant and T E Jesty

Hampshire v Nottinghamshire

SOUTHAMPTON (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 213 for two wickets against Nottinghamshire

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

G W White b Franks	73
J S Laney not out	76
P R Whitaker c Noon b Franks	0
*R A Smith not out	42
Extras (lb 8, nb 14)	22
Total (2 wkts, 69 overs)	213

W S Kendall, L J Botham, †A N Aymes, S D Udal, R J Maru, J N B Bovill and S J Renshaw to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-147, 2-149.

BOWLING: Cairns 11-1-41-0; Bowen 20-2-65-0; Tolley 15-2-56-0; Franks 14-3-24-2; Afford 9-3-19-0

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: R T Robinson, M P Cowman, G F Archer, *P Johnson, U Afzaal, C L Cairns, C M Tolley, †W M Noon, M N Bowen, P J Franks, J A Afford

Bonus points: Hampshire 1
Nottinghamshire 0

Umpires: G I Burgess and V A Holder.

Leicestershire v Middlesex

LEICESTER (first day of four; Middlesex won toss). Leicestershire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 154 runs behind Middlesex

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

P N Weekes c Wells b Millns	5
P E Wellings b Mullally	18
M R Ramprakash c and b Parsons	71
*M W Gatting c Nixon b Mullally	7
O A Shah lbw b Mullally	2
†K R Brown c Simmons b Wells	4
K P Dutch lbw b Wells	0
R L Johnson c Wells b Simmons	27
A R C Fraser not out	8
P C R Tufnell c Wells b Mullally	16
R A Fey b Millns	0
Extras (lb 10, nb 22)	32
Total (58.4 overs)	190

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-50, 3-60, 4-66, 5-76, 6-76, 7-166, 8-166, 9-183

BOWLING: Millns 12.4-5-42-2; Mullally 18-6-53-4, Simmons 5.4-2-14-1; Parsons 13.2-2-54-1, Wells 7-2-17-2.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells c Brown b Fey	5
D L Maddy not out	17
B F Smith not out	14
Total (1 wkt, 13 overs)	36

P V Simmons, *J J Whitaker, A Habib, †P A Nixon, D J Millns, G J Parsons, A R K Pierson and A D Mullally to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-11.

BOWLING: Fraser 7-1-14-0; Fay 5-0-19-1, Tufnell 1-0-3-0.

Bonus points: Leicestershire 4 Middlesex 0.

Umpires: B Leadbeater and P Willey

Northamptonshire v Yorkshire

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss) Yorkshire have scored 213 for three wickets against Northamptonshire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

M D Moxon c T M B Bailey b Penberthy	57
M P Vaughan not out	95
*D Byas c Brown b Taylor	21
A McGrath c Curran b Innes	27
R A Kettleborough not out	5
Extras (b 1, lb 5, nb 2)	8
Total (3 wkts, 64 overs)	213

C White, †R J Blakey, D Gough, G M Hamilton, C E W Silverwood and R D Stemp to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-112, 2-144 3-208

BOWLING: Taylor 15-2-65-1; Innes 10-0-30-1, Emburey 15-6-41-0; Penberthy 9-2-28-1 Brown 13-4-38-0; Walton 2-0-5-0.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: M B Loye, R R Montgomerie, *R J Bailey, K M Curran, T C Walton, A L Penberthy, J E Emburey, K J Innes, †T M B Bailey, J P Taylor, J F Brown.

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 1
Yorkshire 1.

Umpires: B Dudleston and A G T Whitehead

Sussex v Somerset

HOVE (first day of four: Sussex won toss): Somerset, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 96 runs behind Sussex

SUSSEX: First Innings

N J Lenham c Holloway b Caddick	18
C W J Athey lbw b Lee	7
R K Rao c Harden b Caddick	17
*A P Wells c Trescothick b Caddick	1
K Greenfield c Lathwell b Lee	11
V C Drakes c Trump b Caddick	2
†P Moores c and b Shine	33
† D K Salisbury lbw b Caddick	6
D R Law b Lee	32
N C Phillips not out	1
R J Kirtley lbw b Lee	3
Extras (lb 3, nb 7)	10
Total (43.1 overs)	141

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-43, 3-44, 4-44, 5-53, 6-83, 7-70, 8-133, 9-137.

BOWLING: Caddick 15-2-58-5, Shine 10-3-28-1; Lee 18.1-5-52-4

SOMERSET: First Innings

M N Lathwell not out	28
M E Trescothick c Moores b Drakes	1
*P D Bowler not out	13
Extras (w 1, nb 2)	3
Total (1 wkt, 7.5 overs)	45

R J Harden, P C L Holloway, S Lee, †R J Turner, A R Caddick, H R J Trump, K J Shine and A C Cottam to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-23

BOWLING: Drakes 4-0-31-1; Law 3.5-0-14-0.

Bonus points: Sussex 0 Somerset 4

Umpires: J H Hampshire and J D Bond.

Warwickshire v Lancashire

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire have scored 233 for seven wickets against Lancashire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

N V Knight lbw b Chapple	33
A J Moles c Keedy b Gallian	11
W G Khan lbw b Gregan	8
M Burns c Lloyd b Keedy	61
T L Penney c and b Titchard	23
D R Brown c Fairbrother b Chapple	14
†K J Piper c Lloyd b Yates	17
N M K Smith not out	28
A F Giles not out	11
Extras (lb 4, lb 5, w 2, nb 18)	29
Total (7 wkts, 74 overs)	233

G Welch and *T A Munton to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-58, 3-61, 4-100, 5-137, 6-188, 7-196

BOWLING: Chapple 19-6-33-2; Green 13-1-45-1, Gallian 11-2-42-1; Titchard 13-3-40-1, Keedy 5-1-22-1; Yates 12-0-42-1

LANCASHIRE: J E R Gallian, S P Titchard, *J P Crawley, N H Fairbrother, G D Lloyd, †W K Hegg, P C McKeown, G Chapple, G Yates, R J Green, G Keedy.

Bonus points: Warwickshire 1
Lancashire 3.

Umpires: N T Plews and A Clarkson

No play yesterday

THE OVAL: Surrey v Worcestershire

Second Test match

Zimbabwe: v Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (second day of five): Sri Lanka, with two first-innings wickets in hand, lead Zimbabwe by 176 runs

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 141 (G W Flower 52; Muralitharan 20-5-40-4; Silva 10-4-16-4).

SRI LANKA: First Innings

R S Mahanama c Flower b B C Strang	3
S T Jayasuriya c A Whittall b P A Strang	41
A P Gurusinha c Wishart b B Strang	86
P A de Silva c and b P A Strang	16
*A Ranatunga c Wishart b B Strang	6
H P Tillekeratne not out	100
†R S Kaluwitharana c A Flower b G Whittall	27
W P U J C Vaas st A Flower b P Strang	8
K R Pushpakumara not out	17
Extras (lb 4, w 3, nb 4)	11
Total (7 wkts)	317

M Muralitharan and K J Silva to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-58, 3-86, 4-102, 5-216, 6-357, 7-276

BOWLING: Olonga 23-5-77-0, B Strang 20-6-53-3; A Whittall 27-6-70-0; P Strang 28-7-58-3; G Whittall 15-4-32-1, G Flower 2-0-13-0

Umpires: C Mitchley (South Africa) and K T Francis (Sri Lanka).

EQUESTRIANISM

Surl takes share of lead at Blenheim

PHILIP SURL, on the consistent Coxley Kontik, shared the lead with Milla Clayton-Bailey, on James Bigglesworth, at the end of a raw, blustery first day of dressage at the Blenheim Vauxhall Monterey international three-day event yesterday (Jenny MacArthur writes).

On a day of mostly mediocre tests, Jennifer Johnson, from New Jersey, who arrived in Great Britain last month on a United States equestrian team training grant, was one of only four other riders to achieve a score in the 40s. She is in third place on Tiger One, on which she was shortlisted for the United States Olympic team.

Surl, 29, who runs a schooling yard at Rushton, in Northamptonshire, had hoped to get ahead in the dressage in order to compensate for his mare's lack of speed on the cross-country. "She's the most genuine horse you could find, but she's not a thoroughbred and she just needs a bit more engine," he said.

It is not a conspicuous defect. At Windsor last year — where they also led after the first day — the partnership finished third. That autumn they won Osberton. The only hiccup in the mare's career occurred at Bramham, in June, where she tripped up the step at the first water obstacle. Surl has got her "fitter than ever" in readiness for the cross-country stage.

Clayton-Bailey, from Oakham, in Rutland, is confident that her eight-year-old gelding can cope with this level of competition. This is his fourth three-day event. "I just want to make sure I do him justice," Clayton-Bailey said.

The pecking order in the dressage is likely to change today, when several leading contenders, including Mary King, with King Soloman, and Andrew Nicholson, with Dawdle, perform their tests.

Master of research breath silence

هكذا من الأصل

Master of reserve breaks his silence

Andrew Longmore says there is more to Kenny Dalglish's book than football

For a man so shy of publicity, yesterday must have been a day made in hell. A flood of questions and no chance to take refuge in his press conference catchphrase: "You saw it, you write it." This time Kenny Dalglish has seen it and Kenny, with judicious use of a ghost, has written it. Yesterday he had to break the habit of a lifetime by talking about it, which he did with humour, honesty and endless patience. He even offered an apology of sorts to his old inquisitors for his deadpan media-face — "Maybe I could have done better at that, but I never missed a press conference. I just didn't make the contribution you guys would have liked."

Had Dalglish been just another master of the cliché, his guttural monosyllables would have been quite acceptable. The frustration was that you knew — and he took a delight in knowing, too — that there was a lot more to be said, if he chose to say it: about the tragedies of Heysel and Hillsborough, about leaving Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers, about Jack Walker's millions and winning the championship, about Jock Stein and Alex Ferguson, who, for a manager supposedly in permanent feud with his fellow Scot, writes a robustly respectful foreword. He has a sharp, analytical mind and a simple eloquence.

Silence, though, has been his main weapon of control, has made him one of the most bewitching characters in the game and prompted his publishers to invest heavily in ending it. This week, 100,000 copies of his autobiography will hit the bookshops and, if barely a half of those are sold, it will still be the biggest-selling sportsbook of the year.

At his first signing, in London yesterday afternoon, there was a glimpse of Dalglish's common touch, so revered in Liverpool. Not for Dalglish the swift signature and the "next please" favoured by Margaret Thatcher. He signed books, season tickets, Liverpool shirts and cards, shook hands with every purchaser and, in the manner of his playing days, did not falter through the whole match.

So what does the book reveal of Kenny Dalglish after all these years? A man of compassion and thought, certainly, of passion and honesty, of arrogance that is the calling card of every great player and, more rare, the ability to step outside himself and see his faults. Dalglish's legend has been founded not just on his supreme mastery of the simple game of football, but also on the depth and dignity of his character.

This is more than a football story, much more than the average ghosted autobiography. There is no kiss and tell here, no enticing headline-catching scandals. That is not Dalglish's style.

He was a mite miffed by the way that he was forced to leave Blackburn rather than the reason for his departure. "We had both come to the same conclusion, they just came to it a little earlier than me," he said with that characteristic half-smile that speaks volumes. One of the most poignant revelations is that he would have returned to Liverpool as manager in the summer after his resignation had the club only asked before appointing Graeme Souness — but that is a rare regret.

Not the least of Dalglish's feats is to emerge from a lifetime's devotion to football in control of his life, able, as he says, to choose the people that he feels comfortable working with. "My adult life," he writes in the opening lines "has simply been a time of trying to fulfil childhood dreams." Asked how he had done, he replied: "Not bad, not bad." Ever the master of the understatement.

☐ *Dalglish: My Autobiography*. Published by Hodder and Stoughton (£16.99).

Rivals put on style in battle of striking contrast

By Patricia Davies

PHOTOGRAPHS: IAN STEWART





De Lorenzi, left, is known for her understated elegance on and off the course; McGann, has a more glitzy and glamorous approach

THEY are both tall, striking, hit a golf ball a long way and are key members of their respective Solheim Cup sides. In most other respects, they are completely different.

Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, of France, 35, divorced, mother of a 12-year-old daughter named Laura, is the understated epitome of a model professional. Elegant and assured, she is quiet and self-contained. She has been a top-class golfer for 20 years, the last ten as one of Europe's leading, home-grown professionals, but is playing in the Solheim Cup for only the second time.

SOLHEIM CUP

EUROPE • USA

Michelle McGann, 26, is a Floridian making her debut for the United States team, and is as outgoing as her presentation would suggest. More often than not, lips and nails are painted bright red and there is always lots of glitz and glitter, carried off with all-American panache. And there are the hats.

If the wind abates and the rain holds off, Chepstow is in for a treat, for McGann's hat company has made up a few broad-brimmed models, with red, white and blue, and stars and stripes patriotically to the fore. They are light, summer things, however, and in practice, Kelly Robbins, who partners McGann in the top foursome this morning, quickly got fed up with being on 'hat alert'. "You've got to wear a baseball cap," she instructed, "because I'm not chasing your hat all over the place." Not the kind of advice Dale Reid will need to offer her partner, de Lorenzi.

The Frenchwoman, who lives in Barcelona, was Europe's No 1 in 1988 and 1989, but failed to win a point in the inaugural Solheim Cup at Lake Nona in 1990. She will expect more this week. Having worked hard to eradicate a sway from her swing, she is, her peers believe, hitting the ball harder and better than ever. She won three times on the women's tour last year and ensured her selection by heading the Solheim Cup points table by a distance.

Two years ago, Mickey Walker, the Europe team captain, asked de Lorenzi to be the travelling reserve, the cheerleading role that Kathryn Marshall — and McGann for the United States — fulfilled with gusto after de Lorenzi declined. "Perhaps it made me work harder, to be sure I was on the team next time," she said.

McGann, too, was determined to play this time. A diabetic since the age of 13 and a professional since she was 18, she threatened for a while to be more style than substance. She looked good and won money, but winning tournaments took longer as she learned to cope, mentally and physically.

However, once she won for the first time last year she won again, and this season she has three victories already and is bubbling with confidence. So is de Lorenzi and, whatever their results, whatever the cultural differences, there is one certainty — McGann and de Lorenzi will do it in style.

GUIDE TO THE SOLHEIM CUP TEAMS

Europe

Helen Alfredsson
Aged 31. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. Played 9, won 4, halved 1, lost 4.
Rarely stops talking. Impetuous but no fool. Puts heart and soul into golf and life. No hanging back.

Laura Davies
Aged 32. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. P9, W6, L3.
MBE. World No 1. Great golfing brain. Loves to gamble. Makes the impossible possible. Full of fun. Her Ferrari is famous.

Lisa Hackney
Aged 28. Debut.
Pleasant, quiet, determined. Touted as a partner for Davies, so no mug. Joker — spreads Marmite on sunglasses.

Trish Johnson
Aged 30. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. P8, W1, H1, L7.
An Arsenal fanatic. Loves holing putts but would rather score goals. Sends her mother to the Great Wall and the Taj Mahal.

Marie-Laure de Lorenzi
Aged 35. Solheim Cup 1990. P3, L3.
Cosmopolitan. A Basque from Biarritz who lives in Barcelona. Oozes quality, on and off the course.

Kathryn Marshall
Aged 29. Debut.
Reserve and cheerleader in '94. Wrote the team song — sharp eye and ear. First Scot to play in both the Curtis and Solheim Cup.

Joanne Morley
Aged 29. Debut.
Relaxed attitude but a hard grafter. Good nerve, lots of heart. Curtis Cup winner '92. Likes a cuppa.

Liselotte Neumann
Aged 30. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. P9, W4, H1, L4
World No 3. Unfazed by the odd bad shot. Never gives up. Ice hockey fan.

Alison Nicholas
Aged 34. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. P9, W5, L4.
Five foot but strong — physically and mentally. A member of Christians in Sport. Thorough. Conscientious.

Catrin Nilsmark
Aged 29. Solheim Cup 1992, '94. P4, W2, L2.
Holed the winning putt at Dalmahoy. Many talents. Flew planes, rides horses, Harley Davidsons, sings.

Dale Reid
Aged 37. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. P9, W4, H1, L4.
A wee Scottish terrier — gets a grip and will not let go. Laconic, funny, good for the team.

Annika Sorenstam
Aged 25. Solheim Cup 1994. P3, W1, L2.
A phenomenon. No 1 in Europe and the United States in 1995. US Women's Open champion '95, '96. World No 2.

Mickey Walker (captain)
Aged 43. Solheim Cup captain 1990, '92, '94.
OBE in 1993 for services to golf. Born in Yorkshire. Pleasant, quiet, determined.

Pia Nilsson (vice-captain)
Aged 38. Debut.
Sweden's national head coach. Great communicator. Open-minded. A gem.

United States

Pat Bradley
Aged 45. Solheim Cup 1990, '92. P8, W2, H1, L3.
Careful, consistent. A grinder. Her swing is not a thing of beauty but it works. Hall of Famer. Quick, dry sense of humour.

Brandie Burton
Aged 24. Solheim Cup 1992, '94. P5, W3, H1, L1.
Youngest on either side but vastly experienced. Quiet, serious. Tendency to overwork. Wonky knees and this week a wonky ankle.

Beth Daniel
Aged 39. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. P8, W6, L2.
Bright, intelligent, opinionated. Injury problems this season but fit again. A formidable opponent. Winner of her three Solheim singles.

Jane Geddes
Aged 36. Debut.
If she is not asleep, she is moving. Always on the go, always involved. Former US and British Women's Open champion. Some debutante

Rosie Jones
Aged 36. Solheim Cup 1990. P3, W2, L1.
Hard worker and a scrapper. Practical joker. Into arts and crafts. Her golf is improving with age.

Betsy King
Aged 41. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. P9, W4, H1, L4.
Dedicated, pensive. Hall of Famer. Christian in Sport. Would love to be a basketball coach.

Meg Mallon
Aged 33. Solheim Cup 1992, '94. P6, W4, L2.
A sweetheart. Freckles, smiling and fiercely competitive. Has three brothers and two sisters. Rolls with the punches.

Michelle McGann
Aged 26. Debut.
Reserve at The Greenbrier. Outpoing. A milliner's dream. No side to her. Big hitter. Catchphrase. "Hey, it's OK."

Dottie Pepper
Aged 31. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. P9, W5, H1, L3.
Lucid, fiery, intense. Brings a baseball mentality to golf. Winning is all.

Kelly Robbins
Aged 26. Solheim Cup 1994. P3, W1, L2.
Laid-back. Never gets down. Always tries hard. Big hitter. Not a great traveller.

Patty Sheehan
Aged 39. Solheim Cup 1990, '92, '94. P9, W3, H1, L5.
A giver. A big heart. Huge sense of fun. Hall of Famer. Loves her garden. Lost all three Solheim singles.

Val Skinner
Aged 35. Debut.
Serious, analytical. Admiral in the navy to the state of Nebraska. She and her family own a course there.

Judy Rankin (captain)
Aged 51. Debut.
Straight down the middle — on and off the course. Modest, gracious, worth listening to. Hates packing. Husband Yippy, son Tuey.

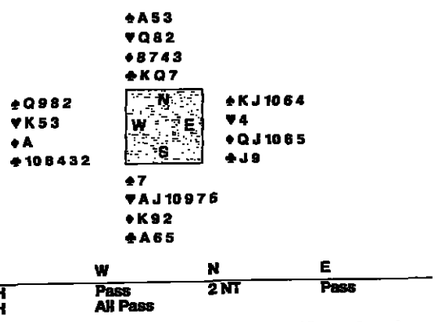
☐ *Compiled by Patricia Davies*

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This refresher is about taking a small extra chance.

Dealer South — East-West game



S	W	N	E
1 H	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4 H	All Pass		

Contract: Four Hearts by South — Lead: Three of spades

Four Hearts is a good contract, appearing to need only one of the king of hearts or ace of diamonds to be with East. When West turns up with both those cards, many players would go off. After the spade lead, it is correct to run the queen of hearts, losing to West's king. West returns a spade: declarer ruffs and draws trumps. Now, if you play a diamond to the king, the game is doomed.

Do you see the extra chance? What does it cost to play a low diamond from hand after drawing trumps? Of course, most of the time that play will not gain, but neither can it lose. Usually, the first round of diamonds will be won by either opponent with a small card, but, provided that the ace is with East, South will still make the one trick that he needs in the suit when he later leads up to his king — the gain comes when West started with the singleton ace.

If the trumps had been two-two, there is another wrinkle. Ruff the spade return and play a second trump to dummy. Ruff the last spade and play three rounds of clubs ending in dummy. Then, play a diamond and duck unless East puts in the ten, jack or queen. If East plays high, cover. If West has the singleton ace, he will have to give a ruff and discard. Also, there are other holdings in which the defence can cash only two diamond tricks before having to give a ruff and discard, eg, when West's initial holding was ace doubleton.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Chess Olympiad

After three rounds of the chess Olympiad in Erevan, Armenia, the lead is held by China with 10½ out of 12. England, having defeated Latvia 2½-1½, share sixth place with nine points. In the women's event, Russia lead with 8½ out of nine, while England, having defeated Slovenia 2½-½, share third place with 7½.

Speed chess

Before his world championship match last year against Garry Kasparov, Viswanathan Anand was widely regarded as the speed king of international chess. That match demonstrated that, when faced with superlative opposition, Anand required his full allocation of thinking time.

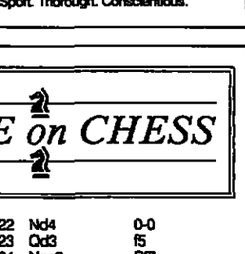
In his latest clash against Kasparov, Anand lost one game on time-forfeit, even though his position was lost when his clock flag fell.

White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Garry Kasparov
Credit Suisse Grand Prix
Geneva, August 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Be3	Ng4
7	Bg5	h6
8	Bh4	g5
9	Bg3	Bg7
10	Be2	h5
11	Bxg4	Bxg4
12	f3	Bd7
13	Bf2	Nc6
14	Qd2	Ne5
15	0-0	e6
16	b3	Ng6
17	Rad1	g4
18	f4	h4
19	Nde2	h3
20	g3	Rc8
21	e5	d5
22	Nd4	0-0
23	Qd3	f5
24	Nce2	Rf7
25	Rc1	Bf8
26	c3	Ne7
27	Rfd1	Nc6
28	c4	dxc4
29	Rxc4	Qe8
30	Qd2	b5
31	Rcc1	Nb4
32	Nc3	Rc7
33	a3	Qa8
34	Be3	Nd3
35	Rc2	b4
36	Na2	Nc5
37	Qe2	bxa3
38	b4	Ba4
39	bxc5	Bxc2
40	Nxc2	Bxc5
41	Bxc5	Rxc5
42	Ne1	Rb5
43	Qc4	Rb2
44	Qxe6	Qa7+
45	Kh1	Rxh2+
46	Kxh2	Qf2+
47	Kh1	Qf1+
48	Kh2	Qe2+
49	Kg1	Qxd1
50	Kf1	Qd7
51	Qxa6	h2
52	Qg6+	Rg7
53	Qh5	Rh7
54	Qg6+	Qg7
55	Qe8+	White lost on time.

Diagram of final position



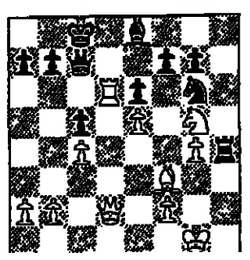
In spite of this temporary setback, Anand went on to win the Credit Suisse final against Kasparov and pocketed the $30,000 first prize.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Zakic — Miljanic, Yugoslavia, 1996. Here, White found a clever combination that results either in checkmate or the capture of the black queen. Can you do as well?



Solution on page 42

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HETAIRISM
a. Comradeship
b. Concubinage
c. Identical twinship

JHEEL
a. Chilli butter
b. An elephant saddle

HALCYDON
a. Calm
b. A legendary river
c. The North Wind

KHAN
a. A hotel
b. A tiger
c. Tenants' duties

Answers on page 42

Course of love runs true for Faldo

By Mel Webb

NICK FALDO is reportedly playing in the Loch Lomond World Invitational this week for nothing, which means that Lyle Anderson, the owner of the course, has got a pretty good deal. Faldo waxed lyrical yet again about the Loch Lomond lay-out yesterday; as public relations exercises go, he is doing a great job and it is costing Anderson not a penny. Beat that for value.

Faldo had a 68, three under par, to trail Jamie Spence by a shot alongside Darren Clarke and José Coceres, then spoke so enthusiastically about the course that it was almost possible to see the warm glow that was obviously surrounding him.

"It's a fabulous lay-out in fabulous condition," he said. "I'm delighted that somebody's shown that you can produce courses to this standard in this country."

Faldo, of course, is used to playing in perfect conditions in the United States, so, when he pronounces in such admiring terms, he needs listening to. If he says that the course is brilliant, wonderful, just stupendous, that should be good enough for the rest of us.

On a day of bright sunshine, the only impediments to good scoring were a robust breeze, the degree of difficulty of the course and greens that were perfect of surface but running at a daunting 11 on the Stimpmeter. Mere trifles, all of them. Not ...

So tricky was the wind, in fact, that John Paramor, the tournament director, rising before the larks had got out of bed, realised that the wind had turned from its normal prevailing northwesterly to easterly and pushed the tees on three holes forward by 25 yards to give the players a sporting chance of reaching the greens in regulation figures.

No amount of disturbed air was going to upset Faldo. He had done a bit of self-analysis on the practice ground, arrived at the conclusion that his clubhead was doing something on the downswing that ordinary people would not understand, and eradicated it.

The result was birdies on the 1st and 3rd, but more important as Faldo saw it, were the scrambled pars that he achieved on the 4th and 5th. "That made me feel good," he said. Further birdies followed on the 7th and 15th, with a solitary bogey on the 14th being the only blight on an otherwise exemplary round.

He likes it here, quite obviously; and they say that the fishing is quite good, too — yet another reason for Faldo the angler to be besotted by the banks of Loch Lomond.

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES (GB and Ire unless stated): 67: J Spence. 68: J Coceres (Arg), D Clarke, N Faldo. 69: M Campbell (NZ), R Allenby (Aus), P Baker, R Drummond, P Linhart (Sp). 70: D Howell, T Gogele (Ger). 71: D Gilford, R Chapman, J Lomas, E Darcy. 72: D Hospital (Sp), P McGinley, R Goosen (SA), C Montgomerie, G Day (US), C Rocca (It), R Willison, R Green (Aus) 73: D Borrego (Sp), I Woosnam, R Rafferty, M Tunnicliff, M Martin (Sp), P Mitchell, A Sherborne, M McNulty (Zim).

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Milwaukee 2 Toronto 1; Boston 4 Detroit 0; New York 3 Baltimore 2; Cleveland 4 Chicago 3; Minnesota 7 Kansas City 4; California 3 Oakland 1; Seattle 5 Texas 2.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 6 Houston 2; Colorado 8 Los Angeles 4; San Diego 8 San Francisco 5; Montreal 4 New York 3; Pittsburgh 5 Cincinnati 3; Philadelphia 8 Florida 6; St Louis 5 Chicago 3.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Group C: Panathinaikos 75 Olimpija Ljubljana 67; BC Croatia 65 Barcelona 75. Group D: Sevilla 72 Partizan Belgrade 67. Group H: Verona 76 London Towers 48.
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Thames Valley 105 Derby 117; Crystal Palace 68 Birmingham 77.

BOXING

TYLORSTOWN: Featherweight bout (8 rnds): Steve Robinson (Cardiff) bt Kelton McKenzie (Leicester) pts.

CRICKET

Sahara Cup

India v Pakistan

TORONTO (India won toss): India beat Pakistan by 55 runs

INDIA

†N R Mongia lbw b Wasim	2
*S R Tendulkar c Aamir b Wasim	2
R S Dravid c Salim Elahi b Saqlain	46
M Azharuddin st Moin b Aamir	36
V G Kambli st Moin b Mushtaq Ahmed	29
A D Jadeja b Wasim	23
S D Joshi run out	31
J Srinath c Saqlain b Wasim	3
A R Kapoor c Mushtaq Ahmed b Saqlain	0
B K V Prasad not out	0
A Kumble run out	2
Extras (lb 8, w 7)	15
Total (50 overs)	191

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-14, 3-88, 4-103, 5-133, 6-179, 7-187, 8-189, 9-189.
BOWLING: Wasim Akram 9-0-38-4; Waqar Younis 7-1-15-0; Azhar Mahmood 5-1-28-0; Mushtaq Ahmed 10-2-29-1; Aamir Sohail

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Tendulkar b Kumble	28
Salim Elahi c Kambli b Srinath	4
Aamir Sohail c Mongia b Prasad	1
Ijaz Ahmad c Mongia b Prasad	0
Salim Malik lbw b Kumble	27
Azhar Mahmood b Kumble	10
*Wasim Akram st Mongia b Kumble	0
†Moin Khan c Mongia b Srinath	42
Saqlain Mushtaq c Tendulkar b Prasad	9
Mushtaq Ahmed st Mongia b Joshi	1
Waqar Younis not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 10, w 3)	14
Total (42.4 overs)	136

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-12, 3-16, 4-83, 5-85, 6-88, 7-91, 8-124, 9-131.
BOWLING: Srinath 7-4-9-2; Prasad 9-3-22-3; Kapoor 6-0-27-0; Joshi 9-1-27-1, Kumble 7-2-12-4; Tendulkar 4-0-17-0.
Umpires: D R Shepherd (England) and D Orchard (South Africa).
SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of three: Belper Meadows: Derbyshire 366 (M R May 70, V P Clarke 70, J Pipe 67) and 282 (Clarke 62); Northamptonshire 390-4 dec (D J Sales 211, R R Montgomerie 113) and 281-2 (A J Swann 122 not out, Sales 74). Northamptonshire won by 8 wkts. Taunton: Somerset 354-8 dec (J N Batty 140, I Sutton 86) and 205 (A Balrstow 63; A G Wharf 5-67); Yorkshire 293 (Wharf 127) and 268-6 (B Parker 68). Yorkshire won by 4 wkts.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Eleventh stage (Avila to Salamanca, 188 kilometres): 1, M di Renzo (It, Cantina Tollo) 4hr 53min 54sec; 2, I G Camacho (Sp, Kelme-Artiach) same time, 3, A Edo (Sp, Kelme-Artiach) at 4min 46sec. Overall positions: 1, Zulle 47hr 44min 47sec; 2, Indurain at 1min 04sec; 3, L Jalabert (Sp, ONCE) at 1:14.

EQUESTRIANISM

BLENHEIM: Vauxhall Monterey International Horse Trials: Positions after first day of dressage: Equal 1, Codey Kontki (P Suri, GB) and James Bigglesworth (M Clayton-Bailey, GB) 45.0pts; 3, Tiger One (J Johnson, US) 45.6; 4, Word Perfect II (C Bertle, GB) 46.8; 5, Vaiika II (Y Baudvin, Fra) 47.0; 6, Thomas Atkins (L Bevan, GB) 49.0.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results
COCA-COLA CUP: Second round, first
1 Chelsea 4; Bristol City 0 Bolton Wanderers 0, Coventry City 1 Birmingham City 1, Everton 1 York City 1; Leeds United 2 Darlington 2; Middlesbrough 7 Hereford United 0; Nottingham Forest 1 Wycombe Wanderers 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1 Oxford United 1; Southampton 2 Peterborough 0; Stoke City 1 Northampton Town 0, Swindon Town 1 Queens Park Rangers 2; Wimbledon 1 Portsmouth 0.
SCOTTISH COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round: Rangers 4 Hibernian 0.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton 0 Emley 0; Boston 3 Buxton 0; Winsford 0 Leek 2. First division: Bradford PA 1 Worksop 1.
ICIS LEAGUE: Guardian Insurance Cup: First round replay: Epsom and Ewell 1 Chesham 2.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Cup: First round, first leg: Cemaes Bay 3 Llansantffraid 5; Cwmbran 5 Aberystwyth 3; Porthmadog 4 Conwy 3.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich 0 Ipswich 1; Watford 2 Brighton 1; Wimbledon 3 Oxford Utd 3.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Manchester Utd 5 Tranmere 1. First division: Huddersfield 2 Leicester 0; Port Vale 1 Aston Villa 3; West Bromwich 1 Middlesbrough 3; Notts County 1 Sunderland 0. Second division: Barnsley 1 Wrexham 3; Hull 3 Carlisle 1; Shrewsbury 1 Manchester City 2; Bradford 2 Stockport 1. Third division: Bury 1 Walsall 1; Lincoln 3 Chesterfield 1; Scarborough 0 Scunthorpe 3.
COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Feltham 4 Cobham 0
FA CUP: First qualifying round replays: Gateshead 5 St Helens 1; VS Rugby 0 Bedworth 3; Northampton Spencer 2 Racing Club Warwick 2.
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 0 Guisborough 1; Consett 3 West Auckland 0; Seaham Red Star 2 Durham 4, Shildon 2 Stockton 3; Whickham 1 RTM Newcastle 1.
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Highworth 3 Kintbury 1; North Leigh 2 Lambourn Sports 2.
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien/McKenzie Butchers Cup: Buckingham Athletic 2 Harpenden 4.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Ryde Sports 1 Cowes Sports 0.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe 2 Kidsgrove 0; Penrith 1 Darwen 0, Rossendale 2 Salford 4.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Brigg 3 Hatfield M 0; Hallam 1 Ossett Town 0, Selby 1 Thackley 1.
WELSH CUP: First round replays: Aber-
FA YOUTH CUP: Preliminary round: Redditch 6 Hinckley Athletic 1, Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Faversham 1; Bristol 0 Burton 5; Bolehall Swifts 0 Northampton Spencer 5, Braintree 0 Wivenhoe 5; Wisbech 0 Southend Manor 0, Stevenage 1 Sudbury 0, Beaconsfield SYCOB 2 Harefield 1; Aveley 4 Welwyn Garden City 1, Folkestone Invicta 0 Margate 1; Walton and Hersham 3 Oakwood 0; Witney 3 Oxford City 1; Basingbourne 3 Croydon 0.
GERMAN CUP: Second round: Arminia Bielefeld 0 Unterhaching 1.
ITALIAN CUP: Second round: Genoa 2 Sampdoria 2.
SUPERCOPA: First round, first leg: Nacional (Uru) 1 Cruzeiro (Bri) 1, Gremio (Bri) 3 Velez Sarfield (Arg) 3, Atletico Nacional (Col) 2 River Plate (Arg) 1.
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Romania 1 United Arab Emirates 2 (in Bucharest).
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Charterhouse 4 KES Witley 2; Kimbolton 3 City of London 1.

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Bridgend 80 Dunvant 0; Caerphilly 14 Llanelli 9; Cardiff 75 Ebbw Vale 17, Neath 65 Newbridge 10; Newport 34 Treorchy 29.
INTER-SERVICE TENS COMPETITION: Final: Royal Marines 47 REME 5 (at Havant).
PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Argentina 54 Uruguay 20; Canada 23 United States 18.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: RHS Holbrook 32 Davenant 0, Exeter Coll 12 Exeter School 27; Denstone 69 Wrekin 5; Langley Park 5 St George's, Weybridge 26; Stockport GS 18 Birkenhead 22.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Long Eaton 60 Bradford 48, Poole 54 Sheffield 42; Hull 55 Peterborough 41.
DUDLEY WOLVES TROPHY: Second leg: Cradley Heath and Stoke 48 Wolverhampton 48 (agg: 89-103).

SQUASH

CAIRO: Men's Open championship: Quarter-finals: Jansher Khan (Pak) bt A Barada (Egypt) 15-5, 8-15, 15-4, 15-14; P Nicol (Scot) bt D Harris (Eng) 15-11, 15-10, 15-13; Zubair Jahan (Pak) wo M Chaffoner (Eng) scr; R Eyles (Aus) bt C Walker (Eng

Masterminding big push for glory

FREUD ON FRIDAY



So I sat back in the black leather chair. Magnusson looked me in the eye and said: "Your specialist subject is the world bobsleigh push-start championship 1994-1996. You have two minutes starting . . . now, what do the letters FMBS stand for?"

Fédération Monégasque Bobsleigh et Skeleton.

Correct. Name the bestselling book by Great Britain's director of coaching and performance?

Flanagan's Run by Tom McNab.

Correct. What is the length of the timed run?

40 metres.

Correct. What is the gradient of the course?

There is no gradient at the start, -4.07° at the finish.

Correct. What is the weight of the four-man bobsleigh?

310 kilograms.

Correct. What medals did the British squad win in the championship of 1995?

Silver in the four-man, bronze in the two-man.

Correct. Who was Monaco's No 1 driver in each of the championships?

Prince Albert of Monaco.

Correct. Name the winning team in the 1996 championship.

United States of America.

Correct. How many countries competed in 1996?

25.

Correct. Which domestic appliance company sponsors the British team?

Zanussi.

Correct. Which team is led by a Super Bowl running back?

Puerto Rico.

Correct. Where is the competition held?

On the harbour at Monte Carlo.

Correct. What is the price of a taxi from the harbour to Loew's Hotel?

Could you repeat that question?



Monte Carlo or bust: the Holland team takes to the rails at the world bobsleigh push-start championship in Monaco. Photograph: Martin Beddall

What is the price of a taxi . . . stop the clock. Why are you crying?

I paid the taxi.

The four-man bobsleigh competition is the most important in the push championship: each team is allowed three runs, the two best times count for medals. Great Britain is well fancied — the team consists of Mark Tout, driver; Courtney Rumbolt, Dean Ward and Lenny Paul, squad captain. Speed and weight are important; crews should ideally be cohesive, tight-hipped, explosive.

There is a five metre start area in which the team positions itself for take-off: two men on the port side, one starboard, one at the back. They take deep breaths, clasp each others' hands to manifest togetherness and optimism, rise to their toes, lower themselves to the push position and, at a word of command, they grip the sleigh and run like hell.

Forty metres from the start line is a red and white barrier suspended 1½ metres above the galvanised rail on which the bobs are pushed. This barrier must not be disturbed. In the best of all worlds, all four men will jump into the sleigh at the last moment and the electronic timer flashes up the result instantly; a man with a flag waves red or white to denote false or clear pushes. The sleigh is then pushed back to the start where the next team gathers for its brief moment of glory.

"Voiçi le bob, voilà les boobs," I tell a man sitting next to me. He looks blank. He is Bulgarian. The wise men in command of the Britain team decided that the morning push is a waste of time and effort; our men will come fresh and eager to the afternoon pushes . . . so we all have lunch.

The day is brilliant, temperature in the middle 80s, hardly any wind. With the exception of Holland and Hungary, every country beats six seconds; United States are the fastest with 5.49sec. The commentator, who speaks only French, says something nice about every push, regardless of the time taken. *"Une très bonne operation"* and *"Vraiment excellent"*.

'They take up their positions, rise, dip, push, race and jump on board'

The terraces, what the French call *les tribunes*, hold 250 spectators, and about that number again watch and cheer from the promenade. Behind *les tribunes* is an upmarket swimming pool where toplessness is *de rigeur*.

With 5.49sec to beat, Great Britain come to the start line, manifest a four-handed clasp, take up positions, rise, dip, push, race and jump on board. The timer shows 5.49sec, and those of us with Union Jacks wave them about our heads. Then we notice that the barrier above the finish line is swinging, broken by the shoulder of our No 3 man, who did not lower himself sufficiently quickly.

Having had no morning run, the team is eliminated. "Defeated with honour; a victory in our hearts if not in the book," McNab said.

"There is still the two-man competition," I tell him. McNab looks sick. Britain sort of misunderstood the entry procedure. The Lithuanians got it right and the Norwegians, Czechs, Japanese and Ukrainians — but we failed to complete the right form.

"Was it the foreign language that defeated us?"

No, it was in English.

In the four-man final, United States II were 0.07sec faster than United States I with the Czechs third. Barring accidents, like derailment, teams show staggering consistency in their times; the dependable Swiss achieved three pushes within .04sec.

At the awards dinner that night, His Serene Highness (the local translator pronounces the "g" in Highness) Prince Albert only got two out of ten for microphone technique. Baron de Coubertin maintained: being there is what matters. I was there.

One of the sponsors asked if I thought that the sport would catch on in England. I thought that the event lacked that element of danger which brings people to the piste. I told him that our weather was against it; on reflection, if we had four Linford Christies we could conquer the world of *Le Push* — an esoteric sport bound by the tightest of rules.

CLEMENT FREUD

RADIO CHOICE

Journey that made history

Witnessing History. *Radio 4, 10.00am.*

The National Theatre's 1971 production of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night* at the Old Vic justifies its place in this series about momentous occasions. Though still suffering from the effects of cancer therapy, Laurence Olivier pushed himself up to and sometimes beyond the limit as James Tyrone, veteran actor and head of a tormented family. O'Neill created him from memories of his own father. Benedict Nightingale, writing in *New Statesman* about Tyrone's cry of despair over his morphine-addicted wife, said the sight was so painful that he had to look away. It proved to be Olivier's last important role in the theatre, and the production itself helped to staunch the National's financial haemorrhage. John Florance talks to some of those who witnessed theatre history being made.

Friday Night is Music Night. *Radio 2, 7.30pm.*

Leonard Pearcey's cue for his interval feature about what opportunities exist for young British instrumentalists to make the grade is provided by Sheona White, the tenor horn player. She won Radio 2's 1996 Young Musician competition. If she blows as impressively tonight as she did on her night of glory, we are in for a treat. Pearcey chairs the judging panel in the Radio 2 contest. Tonight he presents snippets from recordings made by four youth orchestras, and tells us things we should have known, but probably did not, about the Young Concert Artists Trust.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 6.30am Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa 'Anson **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **7.00** Essential Selection **10.00** One in the Jungle. Two hours of hardcore drums and bass **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show **3.00am** Annie Nightingale **5.00** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Kelner, incl **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Mad about Musicals. Paul Nicholas hosts the quiz for amateur musical associations **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night. See Choice **8.45** Every Living Thing **9.00** Listen to the Band **10.00** George Melly **12.05am** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme incl at **6.55, 7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, with Brian Hayes incl **10.35** News from Europe **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl **12.35pm** Moneycheck, with Philippa Lamb **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.05** Soldheim Cup Golf. Tony Adamson presents coverage from the St Pierre course, Chepstow **7.00** News Extra, with David McNeil **7.35** Parkinson on Sport **8.30** Friday Sport, with Robin Bailey. Football: Commentary on a Division One game plus golf **10.05** Paper Talk, with Jay Rayner and Brian Alexander **11.00** Night Extra, with David McNeil **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night, with Richard Dallyn

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross **10.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Tommy Boyd **5.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Sport **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST.** News on the hour. **5.30** Europe Today **5.45** Folk Routes **6.30** Europe **6.45** Going Solo **6.50** Insider's Guide **7.15** World Today **7.30** Rock Salad **8.15** *Off the Shelf. Tender is the Night* (15/20) **8.30** The Way of the Buddha **9.15** Music Review **9.45** Soundbyte **10.05** Business Report **10.15** Focus on Faith **10.45** Sport **11.30** BBC English **11.45** *Off the Shelf* **12.30pm** Meridian **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Science in Action **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack **4.05** Sports Roundup **4.15** BBC English **4.30** News in German **5.30** Business Report **5.45** Britain Today **6.10** World Today **6.25** Spotlight **6.30** News in German **7.30** Focus on Faith **9.01** Outlook **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** Multitrack **10.05** Business Report **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** People and Politics **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.10am** Spotlight **12.15** Insider's Guide **12.25** Book Choice **12.30** Multitrack **1.30** Seven Days **1.45** Britain Today **2.30** Outlook **2.55** Words of Faith **3.30** Meridian **4.15** Sport **4.30** Vintage Chart Show

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Breakfast Show **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Arutunian (Trumpet Concerto) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Classic Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Classic Showcase **8.00** Evening Concert. Tchaikovsky (1812 Overture, Op 49); Haydn (Trumpet Concerto in E flat); Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor, Op 64) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte **(FM) / (AM)** Robin Banks **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Presented by Andrew McGregor. Includes Brahms (Three Intermezzi, Op 117); Gershwin (Piano Concerto in F); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in G, BWV541); Britten (Canticle No 5: The Death of St Narcissus); Verdi (Overture: Caro Nome); Bantock (Pagan Symphony)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Paul Gambaccini. Gershwin (Second Rhapsody); Loewe (Erlkönig); Schubert (Symphony No 4 in C minor)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Introduced by Mark Rowlinson live from the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Stanford (Irish Rhapsody No 5 in G minor); Liszt (Transcendental Study No 4: Mazeppa); Mozart (Oboe Quartet in F, K370); Vorisek (Variations in B flat, Op 19)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Dvořák

1.00pm News; Chamber Music from Manchester. Introduced by Rodney Slatford. Playford (Indian Queen; Of Noble Race was Shinklin); Simpson (Bonny Sweet Robin); Ravenscroft (New Oysters); Anon (Fortune My Foe)

2.00 Preoccupations. Featuring the pianist Kathryn Stott talking about a subject which is close to her heart

2.05 Fauré (Nocturne in D flat, Op74). Kathryn Stott, piano

2.15 Music Restored. Presented by George Pratt (r)

3.00 Mining the Archive: Time Remembered. The Franki-Pauk-Kirshbaum Trio have been one of the finest piano trios of the past 25 years. These tapes from recordings in the early 1970s demonstrate the trio's ability to harness their individual styles into the ensemble. Includes Schubert (Notturno D897); Schumann (Piano Trio in F, Op 80); Dvořák (Trio in F minor)

5.00 Music Machine, presented by Tommy Pearson. A look at why some composers choose words such as "tra-la-la", "shoobeedoo" and any others they care to invent

5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green. Includes Debussy (Dr Gradus ad Parnassum); Handel (I will sing unto the Lord Israel in Egypt)

6.30 Leeds International Piano Competition (with BBC2). Part one of the final with the first three pianists performing their concertos. Howard Goodall introduces the concert and is joined by Ian Burnside

9.00 Novelists. Louis de Bernieres reads from his work-in-progress, *Birds Without Wings*

9.20 Arthur Bliss (Clarinet Quintet). Performed by the Delme Quartet and David Campbell, clarinet

10.00 Hear and Now. Sarah Walker talks to the composer Colin Matthews about his recent work and the pianist Anthony de Mare performs an Anglo-American studio recital

12.00 Composer of the Week: Bach

1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes Schubert (Eine Kleine Trauermusik, D79) **5.00** Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl *Weather* **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30 Today,** incl **7.25, 8.25** Sport and **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** My Name Escapes Me. Sir Alec Guinness reads his own "diary of a retiring actor" (5/5) **8.58** Weather

9.00 News

9.05 Desert Island Discs. Kevin Whately (r)

9.45 Gerry's Bar. Casual encounters in Northern Ireland and beyond by Gerry Anderson (2/4)

10.00 News; An Act of Worship (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.00 News; Witnessing History (FM). See Choice

10.30 Women's Hour

11.30 The Natural History Programme

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm The Food Programme. In the first of a new series Derek Cooper goes on the bed and breakfast trail in Hereford **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; The Classic Serial: Dombey and Son. Michael Bakewell's dramatisation of Charles Dickens's story (3/6)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News

4.05 Kaleidoscope at Bridgewater Hall. Lynne Walker meets members of the Hallé and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestras at the newly-opened international concert hall in Manchester

4.45 Short Story: Birthmark, by Claire Keegan (r)

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Parkes and Gardens. In the last of six programmes, Simon Parkes asks if London squares should be open to all, and what the future of city parks is. And he visits some green spaces in urban settings (6/6)

7.00 News

7.05 The Archers. Eddie's in demand

7.20 Pick of the Week

8.05 Any Questions? The panel includes David Davis MP, Minister of State at the Foreign Office and *Times* columnist Matthew Parris

8.50 Speaking as an Expert. Laune Taylor tries to pass himself off as an expert in the rock 'n' roll business

9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. Simon Rattle (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Jeremy Harris

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Nation's Favourite Poems (5/5)

11.00 Week Ending

11.25 Tea Junction

11.45 A Cry in the Dark: Mossies in the Mars

12.00 News incl **12.27am** approx Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Amongst Women. Tony Doyle reads John McGahern's story. Sheila and Mona leave for Dublin (5/10) (r) **12.48** Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

HETAIRISM

(b) Open concubinage. In anthropology, applied by Sir J. Lubbock to a supposed primitive form of the sexual relations, communal marriage in a tribe. From the Greek *hetaira* a tart *hetairizein* to be a courtesan. "The primitive condition of man socially was one of pure hetairism, or, as we may for convenience call it, communal marriage where every man and woman were equally married to one another."

JHEEL

(c) Or *jhil*, a pool or lagoon (in India) often of vast extent, left after an inundation. From the Hindi *jhil*. "The pigs come out of their own accord, to take the air or wallow in some neighbouring jheel."

HALCYDON

(a) Calm or tranquil. An incorrect form of *halcyon*, probably influenced by the Latin *alcedo* a kingfisher. "The Halcyons or Halcydons were said, I think, to be begot of Lucifer."

KHAN

(a) In the East: a building (unfurnished) for the accommodation of travellers, a caravanserai. From the Arabic *khān* an inn. "The badly-cooked, indigestible stuff which most Eastern travellers eat at the Khans."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1, Rd8+! Qxd8; 2, Bxb7+ and, unless Black jettisons his queen, he will be mated, eg, 2. . . . Kc7; 3, Qa5+ Kd7; 4, Bc6+ Ke7; 5, Qxc5+

TENNIS: DAVIS CUP PROMOTION QUEST MARKS END OF ERA AT WIMBLEDON

Rusedski to open Britain's challenge

BY ALIX RAMSAY

THE closest that Great Britain is likely to get to the Davis Cup — for the forseeable future at least — was yesterday when the draw was made at Wimbledon for Britain's Euro-African zone, group-two tie against Egypt. Using the silver trophy as a makeshift hat, Greg Rusedski's name was drawn first and he will open the five-match series today, against Tamer El Sawy.

The tie will mark the end of an era for Wimbledon. Played on No 1 Court, it will be the last competitive fixture held there before the old stadium is pulled down and the new, 11,000-seat No 1 Court is opened in time for the 1997 All-England championships.

Nobody can escape the sense of history surrounding the weekend's matches, nor the importance of the result. If Britain win, they will gain promotion to Euro-African zone group one, just one step away from the world group and a chance to play for the trophy itself.

The Britain team, captained by David Lloyd, is in good spirits. Tim Henman has recovered from the groin strain that forced him to pull out of the Bournemouth International last week and, after ten days' rest, feels fully fit again. On Sunday he picked up a racket for the first time since the US Open; on Monday he had a full practice session.

On paper, Britain have a relatively easy task ahead of them. El Sawy is Egypt's top player, ranked No 174 in the world — 103 places behind Rusedski and 141 behind Henman, who will play Amr Ghoneim, Egypt's only other player with a world ranking, at No 522, in the second match today.

However, El Sawy is not ready to throw in the towel. For the past seven years he has carried the burden of Egypt's hopes in the Davis Cup and these days regards it less as a form of pressure and more as a challenge. "The Davis Cup feeling never goes," he said. "On paper, it is tough, but we wouldn't be here if we didn't think we had a chance."

Those chances may well be scuppered by the Wimbledon weather. With rain forecast for the next few days, the matches could well back up, which would leave El Sawy and Ghoneim, the only two nominated to play from the four-man Egypt team, with a lot of tennis to play in a very short period of time.

SCHEDULE: Today (11am start) G Rusedski v T El Sawy; T Henman v A Ghoneim. Tomorrow (1.45pm start): N Broad and M Petchey v El Sawy and Ghoneim. Sunday (11am start): Henman v El Sawy; Rusedski v Ghoneim.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship
10.30, second day of four 104 overs minimum
DERBY: Derbyshire v Durham
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Glamorgan
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Kent
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Middlesex
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Worcestershire
HOVE: Sussex v Somerset
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Lancashire

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
Nationwide League
First division
Ipswich v Charlton (7.45) . . . . . .

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Vauxhall GM v Nantwich.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division (7.45): St Patrick's Athletic v Sligo; Shelbourne v University College Dublin.

FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE SHIELD COMPETITION (7.45): Northern section: Drogheda v St Francis. Southern section: Waterford v Limerick.

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim Horse Trials.

GOLF: Solheim Cup (St Pierre, Chepstow) Loch Lomond World Invitational (Glasgow).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League (7.30): Oxford v Eastbourne; Peterborough v Swindon. Conference League: Peterborough v Sheffield (7.0). Challenge: Phil Bishop-Lokeren Pairs Trophy (Arena Essex, 8.0).

TENNIS: Davis Cup: Euro-African zone: Group three: Great Britain v Egypt (Wimbledon). LTA satellite tournament (Birkenhead)

Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 11. Heads you win

Adam who works at Ruddles Brewery in Rutland decided to take a holiday in the Highlands of Scotland to smell the heather rather than the hops for a change.

He loved the scenery but he had a little trouble with the "heavy" preferring the familiar taste of Ruddles County which is so accessible in most of Britain but somewhat harder to find in the mountains of Scotland.

After 10 days even the beauty of the scenery began to pall and the memory of his beloved Ruddles (so near yet so far away) started to get to him.

To take his mind off things and for want of something better to do he decided to have his hair cut.

He went in to the only barber shop for miles around to find the two resident barbers. Adam noticed immediately that the one called Hamish had an appealing haircut, while the other who was known as "Bravehead" had a nightmarish mop of hair.

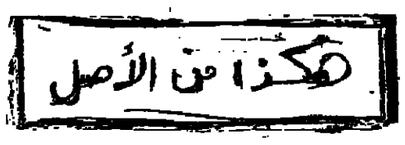
Being a shrewd Sassenach for all his quiet ways, Adam knew his choice of barber was critical.

However he chose correctly and left with a smart trim.

Who did Adam choose to cut his hair and why?



A: Bravehead – as his accomplice Hair Hamish and Bravehead cut each others hair, Bravehead obviously has some talent while Hamish does not.



Woodbines and lager: a critic confesses

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

A few weeks ago on *Mastermind* a nice elderly woman chose as her specialist subject the life and works of Geoffrey Studdart-Kennedy. It was one of those occasions when the viewer, hoping to chip in with a few yelled answers, sinks back in defeat before even the words "starting... NOW" are enunciated. I made a mental note to write to *Mastermind*: could the more obscure specialist subjects be contextualised, please? Nobody has heard of Geoffrey Studdart-Kennedy except this woman. "What was his nickname in the trenches of the First World War?" asked Magnus. The woman smiled. "Woodbine Willie," she said affectionately. By the end of the round, it was possible to infer he was a war poet who inspired devotion, nothing more.

But now it turns out that at home in London, Ian Hislop, cuddly Editor of *Private Eye* (and media star), was yelling out the answers right and left. Because in his absorbing and well-made **Canterbury Tales** last night on Channel 4, the handsome Studdart-Kennedy came to the fore, as a charismatic leader of Christian socialists waging crusades against social injustice after 1918. How did the Church of England cope with the First World War? It was a question well worth asking, because the answer explains a lot that has happened since. While its leaders at home urged the mass killing of Germans, at the front the chaplains revolted in every sense. "These things need not be," wrote one. And among these "radicalised" clergy, Woodbine Willie was so famous that I kept thinking of that woman from *Mastermind*, switching off the telly and saying: "Oh, everyone knows all this."

Last night's programme was the first of three, and left the story of the Church of England in the 20th century languishing around 1930, when the populace was fed up with it again. It wasn't as dour as it sounds, incidentally, despite the footage of trench burials and cenotaphs. As presenter and interviewer, Hislop struck the perfect note of authority, conviction and humane interest: he also laughed at people's jokes, which was nice of him. Mary and Dora of Thaxted recollected the furore caused by their vicar hanging out the red flag in church: Cambridge undergraduates used to tear it down and burn it. Hislop giggled. "They came back ever so many times," they said, to Hislop's delight. "We used to look forward to it," they confided, "not a lot else going on."

Gillian Lacey's historical quest in **Picture This: Album** (BBC2) was more singular than Ian Hislop's and a lot less useful. Having bought an Edwardian photograph album on a bookstall 20 years ago, she always vaguely wondered who the people were. Who was "F.S.S.", for example? And why did he keep posing beside animals he'd killed? For the purposes of this documentary, she set out to learn the identity and fate of the people in the pictures... and she did it. Mostly. And that's it.

The word "Huh?" hung above this pointless documentary, frame by frame. After all, it is not the slightest surprise that the toffs in these photographs really existed, or that a few people still remember them. They lived and died, and they did not connect in any way with the maker of this film. Lacey became interested in Rosemary, whose album this appeared to be, so finally she found Rosemary's grave and Rosemary's old chauffeur. But Rosemary remained a stranger to her. Standing on the same spot as Rosemary — to take precisely the same side-view of a house, or a vista with church — had no significance. "I sense her loneliness stayed with her for life," said Lacey limply, at the end. "Really?" I thought. "So what?"

There is an argument, of course, that if God cares for every little sparrow that falls, so should we. But we live in a tough, market economy in which people can zap to other channels, and *Album* needed a twist. Rosemary had to be Lacey's long-lost grandmother — *at least*. Odd, too, that one of the most heavily accented clues — "I heard she was on the stage" — was repeatedly ignored.

The banality and witlessness of **Neverwhere** (BBC2) are becoming entertaining — a shocking state of affairs. In a daring experiment never before attempted by a television critic, I prepared myself for last night's second episode by consuming a small bottle of lager, which freed me up to laugh. The much-vaunted "Floating Market" in the London underworld was hilariously bathetic. "Looks like the Kensington Superstore in 1972," I sniggered tipsily, and fell asleep. It goes without saying, incidentally: however bad the telly, don't try this at home.

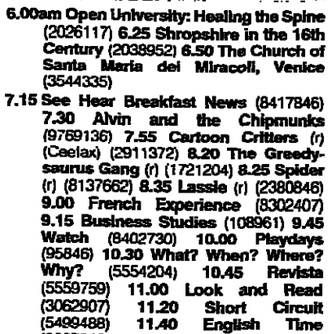
Finally, while the comic talent showcase format generally makes a deep Bong sound like a deathknell (whatever happened to the *Pamela Stephenson Christmas Show*, eh?) back on Channel 4, **Never Mind the Horrocks** was extremely funny and well produced. By a clever inspiration, Jane Horrocks did not appear in every sketch, thus giving the viewer a rare chance to relax. Being continually amazed at a performer's versatility can tax one's good will. Remember how Roy Castle used to get on our nerves tapdancing and playing the trumpet?

But the main innovation of *Never Mind the Horrocks* was the hiring of good writers. A sketch called "The Sixty Second Relationship" was a small classic, beautifully performed, meanwhile the only obvious isn't-she-versatile sketch entailed a woman having to be exorcised. "Roy's my family now Frank," she said, in a startlingly accurate Pat Butcher voice. She was possessed, you see. "She's possessed by the spirit of *EastEnders*," said her helper. "She hasn't smiled for nine years."

6.00am Business Breakfast (39092)
7.00BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (34223)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (8395117)
9.20 Style Challenge (s) (2005551) **9.45 Kilroy** (s) (1000117) **10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (70440)
11.00 News and weather (4399049)
11.05 Golf — the Loch Lomond World Invitational. Coverage of the day's play (s). Includes News at **Noon** (32410136)
1.00pm News and weather (Ceefax) (37310)
1.30 Regional News and weather (45042827)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (32310846)
2.00 Racing from Newbury and International Golf. Live coverage of the second round from Loch Lomond and a three-race card from Newbury (635681)
3.50 Barney (r) (s) (4521933) **3.55 Dear Mr Barker** (s) (6948372) **4.10 Jonny Quest — the Real Adventures** (Ceefax) (7302488) **4.35 Grange Hill** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4528594) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (7601310) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (2321469)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (974778)
6.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (391)
6.30 Regional news magazines (643)
7.00 Muppets Tonight! Frantic family entertainment, featuring Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy. Tonight's special guest, Sandra Bullock finds herself re-enacting her role in *Speed* (Ceefax) (s) (258223)
7.25 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (416136)
8.00 NEW **This Is Your Life.** Michael Aspel surprises another personality when he produces the Big Red Book (Ceefax) (s) (7049)
8.30 Keeping Up Appearances. Hyacinth gets very excited when she discovers that her next-door-neighbour, Emmet, is rehearsing an amateur production of the musical *The Boyfriend* Starring Patricia Routledge (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6556)
9.00 News; regional news and weather (Ceefax) (4556)
9.30 Dangerfield: Treasure. Paul Dangerfield finds himself entangled in a very dangerous situation when the asthmatic grandson of an Asian doctor is abducted. Starring Nigel Le Vaillant (Ceefax) (s) (460285)
10.20 Parkinson: the Interviews. In the last of the series Michael Parkinson recalls his interviews with Diana Rigg and the outrageous Miss Piggy. Last in the series (Ceefax) (s) (791827)
11.00 FILM: Cabaret (1972). Bob Fosse directed and choreographed this Kander and Ebb musical, won eight Oscars and confirmed Liza Minnelli as a screen star A love affair develops between a cabaret singer and a naive young Englishman in the decadent Berlin cafe society of the 1930s (Ceefax) (77198)
1.00 FILM: Son of Frankenstein (1939, b/w) starring Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi The third in Universal's Frankenstein series: the baron's offspring tries to revive the monster and teach him some manners. Directed by Rowland V Lee (366266)
2.35am-2.40 Weather (4929334)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am Open University: Healing the Spine (2026117) **6.25 Shropshire in the 16th Century** (2038952) **6.50 The Church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli, Venice** (3544335)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (8417846) **7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks** (9769136) **7.55 Cartoon Critters** (r) (Ceefax) (2911372) **8.20 The Greedysaurus Gang** (r) (1721204) **8.25 Spider** (r) (8137662) **8.35 Lassie** (r) (2380846) **9.00 French Experience** (8302407) **9.15 Business Studies** (108961) **9.45 Watch** (8402730) **10.00 Playdays** (95846) **10.30 What? When? Where? Why?** (5554204) **10.45 Revista** (5559759) **11.00 Look and Read** (3062907) **11.20 Short Circuit** (5499488) **11.40 English Time** (3037846) **12.00 English File** (Ceefax) (92662) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (20933) **1.00 Scene** (Ceefax) (35952) **1.30 Technology Starters** (45064049) **1.45 Words and Pictures** (45052204) **2.00 The Greedysaurus Gang** (r) (82789399) **2.05 Spider** (r) (97634240) **2.10 Open View** (64789579)
2.15 Plaid Cymru Conference. Dafydd Wigley's keynote speech (5511759)
3.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (7786488)
3.05 Golf — the Loch Lomond World Invitational (s). Includes News at **3.55** (70896001)
6.05 The Munsters (b/w) (r) (Ceefax) (935440)
6.30 NEW **Leeds International Piano Competition** (s) (404001)
NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to change and alteration
9.00 Bottom. The hapless duo decide to spend two weeks camping. Last in series (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2198)



The Swally Brothers (9.30pm)

9.30 Pulp Video. Fast-moving comedy sketch show from Scotland. Last in series (Ceefax) (s) (17469)
10.00 The Fall Guy. Danny Brown takes his revenge on practical jokers Special guests this week are Felix Dexter, Hattie Hayridge and top chef Antony Worral Thompson (Ceefax) (s) (93391)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (829597)
11.15 The Larry Sanders Show (Ceefax) (s) (110407)
11.45 Seinfeld (Ceefax) (s) (564730)
12.10am International Golf: The Solheim Cup. Hazel Irvine introduces highlights of the opening matches(s) (4188247)
12.55 Weatherview (5323841)
1.00 FILM: Claire's Knee (1970) starring Jean-Claude Brialy, Aurora Cornu and Béatrice Romand. Just prior to his wedding, a diplomat takes a holiday in the lakeside town of Annecy where he becomes obsessed with a friend's teenage daughter. Directed by Eric Rohmer (279266). Ends at **2.45**

CHOICE

Leeds International Piano Competition
BBC2, 6.30pm
With the live broadcasts of the Proms and the finals of this important piano competition, the BBC is spoiling the music lover. Taking up a good part of both tonight and tomorrow's BBC2 evening viewing, the six finalists of this 33rd year will play with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. The event will be broadcast live in conjunction with Radio 3 and introduced by Howard Goodall, the composer of television scores such as *Blackadder*, while celebrated lieder accompanist Iain Burnside will provide commentary on the performances. Viewers will have a chance to cast their vote after Saturday night's concert. It will be interesting to see whether the public and the jury's choice will coincide.

Caroline in the City
Channel 4, 9.00pm
The thinking behind this unremarkable comedy was, I suspect, that if it worked for Mary Tyler Moore in the 1970s, it should work for Lea Thompson in the 1990s. Thompson plays Caroline Duffy, a single, successful freelance cartoonist who lives in New York. Of course, she has a great apartment (all American sit-com folk, rich or poor, seem to live in great apartments), a sassy girlfriend (another prerequisite of the single-girl sit-com), and a difficult love-life (stop me if you have heard any of this before). In the pilot, Caroline breaks up with her boyfriend/employer because he has difficulty committing to "anything larger than a goldfish" and then proceeds to try to make him jealous. If you are looking for irony or innovation I should avoid the ensuing 24 episodes.

Friends
Channel 4, 9.30pm
The *Friends*' bandwagon continues to roll on whether or not you have hitched your viewing habits to it. Commanding huge salaries per episode, the six virtually unknowns have become something of a phenomenon in America with stars queueing up for a chance to play cameo roles and capture a little of the *Friends*' hip magic. A couple of weeks ago there was the celebrity-stuffed two-parter featuring the likes of Julia Roberts and Brooke Shields. In this episode, it is Tom Selleck. As Magnum, he played a hunky, mustachioed private eye. As Dr Richard Burke, he plays a hunky, mustachioed optometrist, a grandfather and Monica's love interest. But no star guest can top this episode's real attraction — the much delayed consummation of Ross and Rachel's romance. It is a fittingly starry occasion, albeit of the kind found in a planetarium.

Frasier
Channel 4, 10.00pm
From the mediocre to the downright bad, we come to the creme de la creme of American comedies. Frasier continues to delight with its intelligence, freshness of character and its penchant for pin-pointing middle-class guilt. Frasier realises he has made no new friends in Seattle and tries to remedy the situation. Much to Niles's disgust, he ends up with a man named Bob of all things, whose interests include barbecues (friends call him Shiska-Bob) and tartan berets. Just when Frasier tries to disentangle himself from this mad bore he discovers Bob is in a wheelchair and a huge dose of liberal angst kicks in. The best line, for aficionados, is from Niles on his reluctance to go to the races: "It's the jockeys. Diminutive, underweight figures in expensive silks wielding riding crops — reminds me too much of [his estranged wife] Maris" **Frances Lass**

6.00am GMTV (9828339)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (1455812)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (3593933)
10.00 The Time... the Place (2464681)
10.35 This Morning (64296117)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (7976372)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (2080407)
12.55 Murder, She Wrote (s) (8921556) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (97671594) **2.25 Quisine** (Teletext) (s) (97674681) **2.55 Yan Can Cook** (1529049)
3.20 News (Teletext) (7793778)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7792049)
3.30 Jays World (6963681)
3.40 NEW **The Adventures of Dawdle.** A new series of animated stories from Elisabeth Beresford, who created the Wombles (6950117)
3.55 Oscar and Friends (4515372) **4.00 Roger and the Rottentrolls** (6942827) **4.15 Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys** (Teletext) (7396827) **4.40 Fun House** (Teletext) (8381310)
5.10 Let's Go (3212440)
5.15 A Country Practice (s) (2348136)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (483001)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (963223)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (121136)
7.00 Lucky Numbers (Teletext) (s) (3469)



Eileen Derbyshire as Emily (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street. There is a shock in store for Emily Bishop and Alec's persuasiveness appears to be having the desired effect on songbird Fiona (Teletext) (223)
8.00 The Bill: Too Close for Comfort. WPC Page and DS Daly take opposing views on a rape case involving two cousins (Teletext) (2117)
8.30 Strange but True? Encounters. Michael Aspel charts the events which led to Gulf Breeze, Florida, becoming the world's number one place for UFO sightings (Teletext) (s) (4952)
9.00 Bramwell. Lady Cora's pregnant maid is rushed to the Thrift with labour pains, setting off a chain of events which brings Robert reluctantly back to the surgery and puts Eleanor on the wrong side of the law (r) (Teletext) (s) (7533)
10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (97117)
10.30 HTV West News (Teletext) (258049)
10.40 Late and Live (5809010)
12.10am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (1715711)
12.40 Funny Business (s) (3107860)
1.15 The Good Sex Guide... Late (149082)
2.15 War and Remembrance (909841)
4.05 Not Fade Away (r) (s) (6522976)
5.00 Best of British Motorsport (s) (97353)
5.30 Morning News (82334)

As HTV WEST except:
2.55pm-3.20 Look and Cook (1529049)
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (121136)
10.40 Barry Welsh Is Coming (779608)
11.10 Mainly Men. Magazine series presented by John Leslie (606020)
11.40 Swift Justice (671812)

WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.55 Coronation Street (2065198)
1.25-1.55 Quisine (68915001)
1.55 Home and Away (20595169)
2.25 High Road (97674681)
2.55-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (1529049)
5.10 Home and Away (7778484)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (32778)
10.30 Westcountry News (230001)
10.45 Club 2245 (177952)
11.45 Highlander (370778)

CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (2065198)
1.25 Quisine (68915001)
1.55 A Country Practice (32324049)
5.10 Shortland Street (7778484)
6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (121136)
10.40 Central Weekend (5809010)
12.10am Sledge Hammer (1715711)
12.40 Comedy Central (1522131)
1.40 The Good Sex Guide... Late (8579808)
2.40 cyber.cafe (5258063)
3.10 Helter Skelter (6564131)
4.00 Jobfinder (5797228)
5.20 Asian Eye (9626228)

MERIDIAN
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Quisine (2065198)
1.25 Home and Away (68915001)
1.55 A Country Practice (32324049)
5.10 Home and Away (7778484)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (32778)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (230001)
10.45 The Specialists (100020)
11.15 A406 (107933)
11.45 The Loop (106204)
12.15am Short Story Cinema (1977841)
5.00 Freescreen (97353)

SMC
Starts: 6.35 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (2299448) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (27933) **9.00 Bless This House** (55074) **9.30 Schools** (866827) **12.00 Garden Doctors** (87730) **12.30pm Backdate** (15001) **1.00 Slot Melthrin: Bwgan a Pingu** (20020) **1.30 Australia Wild** (14372) **2.00 Cynhadledd Plaid** (81643) **3.00 Channel 4 Racing from Ayr** (97952) **4.30 Strictly Dancing** (136) **5.00 5 Pump: Tiwba Trwblus** (8900001) **5.15 5 Pump: Taro! Taro!** (7680827) **5.30 Countdown** (488) **6.05 Heno** (941001) **6.35 Jacpot** (190440) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (241933) **7.25 Dan Draed** (409846) **8.00 Liwybrau Dei** (5989) **8.30 Newyddion** (2594) **9.00 The Celluloid Closet** (8865) **10.00 Brookside** (95759) **10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway?** (393469) **11.05 Eurotrash** (605391) **11.35 T.F.I. Friday** (434763) **12.35am Film: Blackboard Jungle** (470247) **2.30 Film: Edge of the City** (12421) **4.00 Film: Tension** (887286)

6.35am The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (r) (2299448)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (27933)
9.00 Bless This House (s) (55074)
9.30 Schools: Eureka! (8408643) **9.45 Stop Look Listen** (8401198) **10.00 Fourways Farm** (1390914) **10.10 TVM** (4696933) **10.25 Technology Prog** (4696933) **10.40 Off Limits** (1432778) **11.05 Ready, Set, Go!** (5412339) **11.20 Stage One** (5493204) **11.35 Schools at Work** (3665440) **11.40 How We Used to Live** (322914)
12.00 Garden Party (r) (s) (Teletext) (87730) **12.30pm Backdate** (Teletext) (s) (15001) **1.00 Sesame Street** (r) (s) (10556) **2.00 The Living Sea** (97679136) **2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Ayr** (85739198) **4.30 Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (136) **5.00 Cutting Edge** (r) (Teletext) (s) (6310)
6.00 TFI Friday. Chris Evans is back with more chat and music. With performances from Skunk Anansie and Electronic (s) (23020)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (249391)
7.55 Books of the Century. Edna O'Brien expounds the joys of James Joyce's *Ulysses* (Teletext) (s) (586914)
8.00 Garden Party. Tom Barber and the team explore the organically grown produce from the kitchen garden at Hatfield House and learn how to grow some of the crispest fruit around (Teletext) (s) (5989)
8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (2594)



Lea Thompson as Caroline (9.00pm)

9.00 NEW **Caroline in the City** (Teletext) (s) (8074)
9.30 NEW **Friends: The One Where Ross and Rachel... You Know.** While Ross and Rachel are getting even better acquainted, Monica finds herself devastatingly attracted to an old family friend (Tom Selleck) (Teletext) (s) (35865)
10.00 NEW **Frasier: The Friend** (Teletext) (s) (95759)
10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (s) (393469)
11.05 Eurotrash (s) (605391)
11.35 TFI Friday (r) (s) (434763)
12.35 FILM: The Blackboard Jungle (1955, b/w) starring Glenn Ford as an idealistic young teacher who refuses to give in to his dangerous and surly class in a slum school in New York. With Anne Francis and Sidney Poitier. Directed by Richard Brooks (470247)
2.30 FILM: Edge of the City (1957, b/w). Directed by and starring John Cassavetes as a sullen, neurotic army deserter, befriended and helped by a New York railroad freight-loader, Sidney Poitier (12421)
4.00 FILM: Tension (1949, b/w) with Richard Basehart as a pharmacist who creates a new identity in order to murder his wife's lover. Directed by John Berry (887286). Ends at **5.40am**

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (87339) **9.00** Press Your Luck (7855778) **9.20** Love Connection (8571469) **9.45** Oprah Winfrey (1881339) **10.40** Jeopardy! (6351730) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9130594) **12.00** Geraldo (5431914) **1.00pm** Animal Practice (57198) **1.30** Designing Women (74778) **2.00** Jenny Jones (41049) **3.00** Court TV (2136) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (1895852) **4.15** Undun (7338933) **5.00** Quantum Leap (3488) **6.00** Beverly Hills 90210 (50198) **7.00** LAPD (41117) **7.30** MASH (1353) **8.00** Just Kidding (3865) **8.30** Jimmy's (2372) **9.00** Texas Ranger (136881) **10.00** Quantum Leap (83440) **11.00** Highlander (67575) **12.00** Midnight Caller (39353) **1.00am** LAPD (81315) **1.30** WKRP (21421) **2.00** Hit Mix

SKY 2

7.00pm The Simpsons (1326846) **7.30** Sea Rescue (6526117) **8.00** Nowhere Man (4016759) **9.00** Models Inc (4028223) **10.00** Fire (4022310) **11.00** David Letterman (96829689) **12.00** Hit Mix

SKY NEWS

News on the hour **6.00am** Sunrise (61488) **9.30** Century (207591) **10.30** ABC Nightline (92468) **11.30** CBS News Live (812391) **2.30pm** CBS News (6050833) **3.10** Court TV (74953310) **6.30** Tonight (93846) **7.30** Sportsline (81235) **8.30** Entertainment (444035) **11.30** CBS News (66575) **12.30am** ABC World News (67711) **1.30** Tonight (4734315) **2.10** Court TV (9050266) **3.30** Century (97808) **4.30** CBS News (79315)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am A Christmas to Remember (1978) (48310) **8.00 Broken Arrow (1950)** (4250013) **10.00 Rhinestone (1984)** (79229) **12.00 Where the River Runs Black (1986)** (5572653) **1.45pm The Age of Innocence (1993)** (83791117) **4.15 I Spy Returns (1993)** (66748759) **6.00 Poca-hontas: The Legend (1995)** (94556) **8.00** [illegible] **3.00 Sleeping Dogs (1977)** (689860) **4.45-6.00 Spenser (1994)**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

12.00 The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle (1939) (69594) **2.00pm The Maltese Falcon (1941)** (69662) **4.00 The Letter (1940)** (6062) **6.00 The Killers (1946)** (76198) **8.00 Throw Momma from the Train (1987)** (71643) **10.00 The French Connection (1971)** (710223) **11.50 9 1/2 Weeks (1985)** (645865) **1.50am The Assassination Bureau (1968)** (8978081) **3.40-5.20 The Letter (1940)** (6746624)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.05am The Littlest Hobo (1958) (7774117) **7.30 My Little Pony (1986)** (35594) **9.00 Up in the Air (1968)** (652004) **10.00 The Truth About Spring (1964)** (77865) **12.00 Where the Red Fern Grows — Part 2 (1991)** (46584) **2.00pm Black Widow (1954)** (2714071) **3.50 Red Planet (1989)** (10075561) **5.00 Up in the Air (1968)** (6198) **6.00 Seasons of the Heart (1984)** (57285) **7.30 UK Top Ten** (6681) **8.00 Forrest Gump (1994)** (70901608) **10.20 Separate Lives (1994)** (516469) **12.10am So I Married an Axe Murderer (1993)** (744334) **1.45 Monolith (1993)** (509179) **3.25-6.00 Rattle and Hum (1988)** (62042624)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
5.00am Bonkers **6.25** Mouse Tracks (1410223) **6.50** Darkwing Duck (3001020) **7.15** Quack Attack (4135092) **7.40** Aladdin (1437846) **8.05** Timon and Pumbaa (7241049) **8.30** Bonkers (35440) **8.00** Sing Me a Story, with Belle (59020) **9.30** Lamb Chop's Play Along! (74169) **10.00** Muppet Babies (49730) **10.30** Adventures in Wonderland (55204) **11.00** Quack Attack (49556) **11.30** Under the Umbrella Tree (40285) **12.00** Fraggle Rock (46556) **12.30** Lamb Chop's Play Along! (74827) **1.00pm** Timon and Pumbaa (96136) **1.30** Aladdin (73198) **2.00** Darkwing Duck (7001) **2.30** Groundling Marsh (3778) **3.00** Quack Attack (7045372) **3.25** Mouse Tracks Attack (7065407) **3.50** Darkwing Duck (2196759) **4.15** Bonkers (8760488) **4.35** Timon and Pumbaa (2335556) **5.00** Aladdin (1681) **5.30** Ghostwriter (7594) **6.00** Crossbow

EUROSPORT

7.30am Cycling (60204) **8.30** Sailing (98894) **9.00** Athletics (81681) **11.00** Motorsports (17594) **12.00** Formula 1 (57136) **1.00pm** Para Gliding (113101) **1.30** Cycling (37372) **2.00** Cycling (97001) **3.30** Mountainbike (2407) **4.00** Golf (4136) **6.00** Formula 1 (46020) **7.00** Tractor Pulling (48391) **8.00** Offroad (64339) **9.00** Formula 1 (44575) **10.00** Sumo (47662) **11.00-12.30am** Cycling (86594)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (94643) **7.30** Wrestling (75136) **8.30** Racing News (11846) **9.00** Women's Golf (3680339) **1.00pm** Ringside on the Road (263391) **2.30** Women's Golf (2130827) **6.30** Sports Centre (31020) **7.30** Trans World Sport (36759) **8.30** Golf (639652) **10.00** Sports Centre (52584) **11.00** Hold the Back Page (10961) **12.00** Tennis (64083) **2.00pm** Wrestling (87773) **3.00** Sports Centre (91063) **4.00-5.00** The Rugby Club (29334)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00am The Rugby Club (8845681) **9.00** World Sport Special (6618440) **9.30** Finish Line (7009136) **10.00** WWF — Raw (9835204) **11.00** Superstars (4963594) **12.30-1.00pm** Cue Masters (5100711)

SKY SPORTS 3

11.00am Tennis (39447020) **4.30pm** Football League Review (12719402) **5.30** Finish Line (16778594) **6.00** ASP Surfing (77212778) **7.00** Football: Ipswich v Charlton — Live (80755556) **10.00-12.00** Golf USA: BC Open (52329827)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Thought for the Day **4.05** Worship **4.15** Kidz TV **4.30** Ray Bevan **5.00** Kenneth and Gloria Copeland **5.30** Christian Music TV **5.45** Marilyn Hickey **6.15** Benny Hinn **6.45-7.00** Good Morning Europe

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (6943117) **7.55** As the World Turns (9457223) **8.50** Peyton Place (6153407) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (2282643) **10.10-11.00** Another World

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Roadshow (6538304) **11.30**



Gene Hackman and Roy Scheider (Sky Movies Gold, 10.00pm)

Getaway (4151198) **1.30** Great Escapes (7088843) **2.00** E Report (5501488) **2.30** Cruising the Globe (6453136) **3.00** Globetrotter (5513223) **3.30-4.00** Around the World in 30 Minutes (8458681)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography (8829556) **5.00** Ancient Mysteries (5504575) **6.00** Weapons at War (7097391) **7.00-8.00** Biography (8836933)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday-Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday-Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable **1.00am** Tales of the Unexpected (5796976) **1.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (7940063) **2.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents (9350044) **2.30** Rod Serling's Night Gallery (9378179) **3.00** Friday the 13th (9711334) **3.55-4.00** Quatro

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (4644136) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (5559488) **10.00** Two's Company (2971662) **10.30** Home Again (4633000) **11.00** Furniture to Go (4727310) **11.30** Room Service (4736339) **12.00** [illegible]

(4680136) **1.30** This Old House (5552575) **2.00** This Old House (4357117) **2.30** Garden Club (2505136) **3.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (4386952) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (2500681)

UK GOLD

7.00am Lassie (4663223) **7.30** Give Us A Clue (4642730) **8.00** Neighbours (26180491) **8.25** EastEnders (2899204) **9.00** The Bill (4648594) **9.30** The Sullivans (5551846) **10.00** Colditz (4648914) **11.00** Bullseye (4706440) **11.30** Sale of the Century (4704469) **12.00** Tellystack (4626700) **12.30pm** Neighbours (5555662) **1.00** EastEnders (8174575) **1.35** Bread (9442681) **2.20** Slinger's Day (29192778) **2.50** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (6707759) **3.30** The Bill (2519339) **4.00** Howards' Way (14989730) **5.05** Bullseye (10409575) **5.30** George and Mildred (2501310) **6.00** Tellystack (2508223) **6.30** EastEnders (3831136) **7.05** The Good Old Days (4946914) **7.55** Funny You Ask (8645136) **8.25** Ever Decreasing Circles (3997469) **9.00** Casualty (19574204) **10.05** The Bill (9209285) **10.40** Roland Rivron Bites the Bullet (5874556) **11.15** Live at Jongleurs

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (1413310) **6.20** Meltdown: Teenage Urban Adventures (14911198) **6.45** Degrassi Junior High (758556) **7.15** Ready or Not (755469) **7.45** California Dreams (747440) **8.15** Sweet Valley High (292575) **8.45** Art Attack (4636372) **9.00** Tiny TCC Tiny and Crew (1278440) **10.20** The Clangers (3090020) **10.25** Christopher Crocodile (8795204) **11.00** Dinobabies (45730) **11.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (53759) **12.00** Barney (42730) **12.30pm** Oscar's Orchestra (70001) **1.00** Casper and Friends (92310) **1.30** Tiny TCC: Tiny and Crew (92782391) **1.45** Teddy Trucks (57872136) **1.55** Mr Benn (57262584) **2.15** Babaloos (55047440) **2.20** Towser (55068933) **2.30** Christopher Crocodile (4773391) **2.40** Bertha (5653730) **3.00** Degrassi Junior High (2310) **3.30** Ready or Not (8468) **4.00** California Dreams (8264) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (6486)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (57484) **6.30** Biker Mice from Mars (60198) **7.00** Rocko's Modern Life (92285) **7.30** Rugrats (60420) **8.00** Doug (10117) **8.30** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (194868) **9.00** Where In the World Is Carmen Sandiego (93440) **9.30** Wishbone (47759) **10.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (3851204) **10.10** Busy World of Richard Scarry (4536575) **10.35** Mr Men (6760310) **10.40** Henry's Cat (6767223) **10.45** Bananas in Pyjamas (3919575) **11.00** BBC Block (60440) **12.00** Clarissa (13204) **12.30pm** Sister Sister (41575) **1.00** Baber (91556) **1.30** Littlest Pet Shop (40846) **2.00** Little Bear Stories (4759) **2.30** BBC Block (21643) **3.30** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (8681) **4.00** Insektors (3045020) **4.15** Technik (3036643) **4.30** Rugrats (8767468) **4.45** Doug (5788952) **5.00** Sister Sister (8399) **5.30** Sister Sister (7952) **6.00** Space Cases (4865) **6.30** Smash Hits (5117)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm An African Ride: Zambia (4718882) **5.00** Time Travellers (4348469) **5.30** Jurassica (2509952) **6.00** Beyond 2000 (5561223) **7.00** Wild Things. Echidna — the Survivor (4519333) **7.30** Mysterious Forces Beyond (2588001) **8.00** Natural Born Killers (5660914) **9.00** Justice Files (5680778) **10.00** Top Marques: Citroen (4525001)

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (5569865) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (5545285) **2.00** The New Avengers (2976117) **3.00** Land of the Giants (4726681) **4.00 FILM: Foreign Intrigue** (4367594) **6.00** Thunderbirds (5585049) **7.00** Monkey (5671020) **8.00** Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (5657440) **9.00** Starsky and Hutch (5677204) **10.00-12.00 FILM: Love and Bullets** (4725952)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Family Ties (8575) **7.30** Entertainment (4001) **8.00** Wings (7223) **8.30** Laverne and Shirley (6730) **9.00** Soap (29778) **9.30** Taxi (61339) **10.00** Entertainment (14933) **10.30 The A List** (23681) **11.00** Sledgehammer (24223) **11.30** Frontline (73682) **12.00** Bob (69421) **12.30am** I Love Lucy (23315) **1.00** Soap (25773) **1.30** Taxi (72179) **2.00** Entertainment (69792) **2.30** Sledgehammer (55599) **3.00 The A List** (45537) **3.30-4.00** Wings (79179)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (4514778) **7.00** Esther (8394391) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (2188001) **8.20** Michael Barry's Choice Cuts (1740198) **8.55** Catchword (6684310) **9.35** Call the Doctor (2664136) **10.00** Super Fresco Fabulosious (8502407) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (1639407) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (7045440) **11.55** The Good Food Show (48738584) **12.25pm** Trivial Pursuit (41857489) **12.50** Gabrielle (7286372) **1.40** Rolonda (1288988) **2.30** The Agony Experience (2834662) **3.00** Live at Three (9187914) **4.00** Who's Sorry Now? (2825914) **4.30** Talkabout (4081391) **5.05** Lingo (68361001) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2845778) **6.00** Bewitched (2835391) **6.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (6316933) **7.05** The New Mr and Mrs Show (3354136) **7.35** Super Fresco Fabulosious (5109643) **7.40** Trivial Pursuit (2758339) **8.00** Street Legal (3852556) **9.00 FILM: Life of the Party: The Story of Beatrice** (91167643) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (2328117)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (1827) **5.30** Treasure Hunt (58310) **6.30** Catchphrase (1933) **7.00** Through the Keyhole (4391) **7.30** Sweat Justice (70117) **8.30**



FOOTBALL 41
The day Dalglish finally brought himself to book

SPORT

TENNIS 42
Rusedski to open Britain's account in Davis Cup tie



Solheim Cup contest presents thrill of sporting combat in purest form

Europe united in victory quest

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

AT St Pierre, Chepstow, soon after breakfast this morning, the opening strokes will be played in one of the team events that have added enormous lustre to the game of golf these past few years and become such a compelling attraction. It was not just golfers who were bewitched and enthralled by the events of the Walker and Ryder Cups last September and the Curtis Cup at Killarney last June. It was those who follow sport.

Now it is the turn of the Solheim Cup between 12 women professionals from Europe and 12 from the United States, and the soundest advice for the initiated and uninitiated is to get across the Severn Bridge by hook or by crook for the start of the three-day competition. It is matchplay not strokeplay and hallelujah for that. Tickets are on sale at the gate.

This is as pure as professional sport can be. It is rare these days to see people who are paid to play sport giving such commitment to an event for which they receive no direct financial recompense. That is one of its appeals. Another is the sight of competitors who are normally accustomed to caring only for themselves uniting in pursuit of victory.

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Faldo on song 41

At stake is honour, the privilege of representing your country or continent and how each individual looks at it is indicative of their own cast of mind. For the home side's Dale Reid, and, one suspects, the Americans Dottie Pepper and Brandie Burton, it's simply a matter of winning. It does not matter whom the opponent is. "I enjoy beating anybody," Reid said. "I don't care whether they're Iraqis or Americans."

For Marie-Laure de Lorenzi the appeal is one that would gladden the hearts of Jean Monnet, the founder of the Common Market. "I don't think about winners and losers," the 35-year-old said. "I was born in France, I live in Spain, my heart is for Europe. I represent all Europe." She was asked whether she believed in a common currency? "Of course," she replied.

IAN STEWART



Trish Johnson, of Europe, raises her putter in salute after sinking a long putt on the 13th green during practice at St Pierre yesterday

The common currency that both teams seek is a win. Mickey Walker's chances of captaining a successful side for the second time were diminished when the teams were enlarged from the 10 who competed in 1994 to the 12 who will compete in four foursomes and four fourballs on each of the first two days and 12 singles on the third. It is agreed the Americans have greater depth; *ergo*, expanding the size of the teams gives them an edge.

Walker sees it as no more than a superiority on paper, however, not one that necessarily translates into a superiority on the course. "Everybody knows that match play is different from strokeplay," she said. "In matchplay the mentality and psychology is different and Europe has already proved that rankings don't really matter much in matchplay situations." Much will depend on her own leadership skills and motivational powers.

Much will depend, too, on Laura Davies, Annika Sorenstam and Liselotte Neumann, who are respectively the first three players in the world rankings and expected to perform according to their status. Significantly, these three as well as Helen Alfredsson, Reid, Catrin Nilsmark, de Lorenzi and Alison Nicholas, who have competed in most of the matches, are included in this morning's opening foursomes when Walker has chosen to deal pairings filled with strength and experience.

TODAY'S DRAW

FOURSOMES

Europe players first

0800: A Sorenstam and C Nilsmark v K Robbins and M McGann
0815: L Davies and A Nicholas v P Sheehan and R Jones
0830: M-L de Lorenzi and D Reid v B Daniel and V Skinner
0845: H Alfredsson and L Neumann v D Pepper and B Burton

The ace in Walker's hands is Davies, playing the best golf of her life. For all the spit-in-your-eye approach of Pepper and Burton, which makes them such formidable matchplayers, there is no one in the United States team who can match Davies's length or ability if she is at her best. "She is incredible," Burton said of Davies. "She has taken the world by storm this year. She is obviously No 1 in the world right now."

Davies believes the match will be settled by putting. "I've never seen so many putts holed as we did at Dalmahoy," Davies said. "The Americans did the same at The Greenbrier. Putting will decide it." Judy Rankin, the United States captain, believes the weather will be influential, the malevolent wind that blew yesterday adding an extra dimension to the challenges posed by the 6,386-yard course.

Yet there is one more factor to be considered and that is the phenomenon that is Davies. At Dalmahoy four years ago, Davies and Nicholas were the first pair off and when Davies used her strength to reach the first green with a massive stroke with a driver from the sodden fairway, it set off a chain reaction that first brought she and Nicholas victory by one hole and continued to spread throughout her team until Europe had won 11½-6½ on Sunday evening.

There are 28 points at stake between two teams that each have three newcomers to this competition. Home advantage may be sufficient to tip matters Europe's way by a slender one point, 14½-13½.

Lee despairs at Bassett's late refusal

BY DAVID MADDOCK

TO LOSE one manager may be regarded a misfortune, but to lose two looks like carelessness in the extreme. After announcing on Wednesday evening that he had persuaded David Bassett to join his club, Francis Lee, the Manchester City chairman, had yesterday to admit that the man in charge at Crystal Palace has had a change of heart. George Graham has already turned the job down and Howard Kendall resisted an informal approach.

A month has passed since Alan Ball was sacked as manager — the fifth to depart Maine Road in five years. In the case of Bassett, and almost certainly Graham and Kendall too, the prospective manager spoke to those who went before him, and did not like what he heard.

Yesterday, the chairman was in defensive mood. "I don't interfere with managers, I've never heard so much bunkum in my life," Lee said. "Brian Horton and Alan Ball will tell you that, I do not even know what the team will be on match days and I would never dream of interfering."

Lee was angry and frustrated at the way in which he believes Bassett used the club after agreeing to take the job and then, within six hours, deciding that he had made a terrible mistake. The fact remains, however, that the search for a manager has reached farcical levels.

"Bassett rang and accepted the job, but then in the morning, at 7am, he rang to say he had changed his mind overnight," Lee said. "I'm telling you, I was on the point of buying a player he asked me to buy for him and now I will have to go away and make sure the deal is off.

"I am so devastated and frustrated, but nothing surprises me in football now. The search goes on, and we will have to leave the inquest until such a time as we resolved the current situation."

City, however, must reflect on Bassett's words yesterday. "I just feel this job is not right for me because we are developing a smashing young squad at Palace and I do not want to abandon the good work we have done," he said.

The inference is that such a scenario at Maine Road is some distance away. Under Lee, City have been relegated, have a dispirited squad and are closer to the Nationwide League second division than the FA Carling Premiership. They are £19 million in debt and cannot attract a manager who does not even rank among the biggest names.

Lee's position is increasingly perilous and, with unrest within his boardroom, he has little time left to salvage the situation. Yesterday he hinted that he may have to swallow his pride and approach Bruce Rioch — a man he has described as an enemy on more than one occasion.

What is certain is that Lee must appoint a manager with genuine credentials. Otherwise, those supporters who declared him a saviour when he wrested control of the club from Peter Swales will conclude that he was really no more than a false messiah.

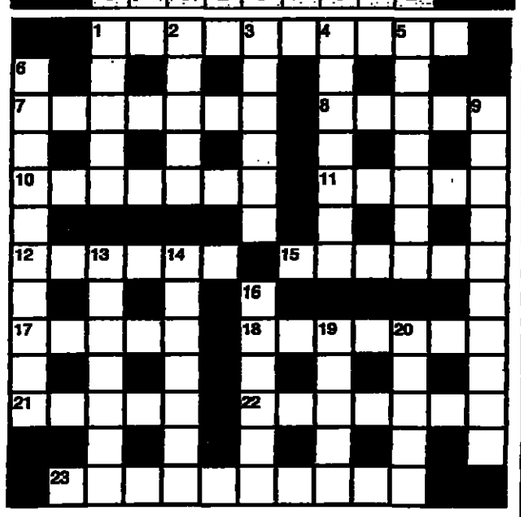


Bassett: change of heart

Ray Harford, the Blackburn Rovers manager, returned from a scouting mission to Europe yesterday amid suggestions that he was on the verge of signing Oliver Bierhoff, the Germany international who plays in Italy with Udinese. But Harford insisted that he had in fact been in Spain, and that he was no closer to completing the transfer of the top class forward he so craves.

Graham, now the Leeds United manager, suggested yesterday that his first move in the transfer market may be to bring back Tomas Brolin, the forward who was loaned to FC Zurich after a disastrous spell at Leeds under former manager Howard Wilkinson. "I think I may have to get him in and have a look to see if he can help our current injury-hit situation," Graham said.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 892

ACROSS
1 Overconfident (10)
7 One lamenting (7)
8 Identifying tag (5)
10 Travel bags (7)
11 Requested (5)
12 Pressed for information (6)
15 Of the hip girdle (6)
17 Small diagram inside another (5)
18 Maths. using alphabetic symbols (7)
21 Unoriginal (5)
22 US plain (7)
23 Thomas —, Wordsworth's *marvellous Boy* (10)

DOWN
1 Held on tight (5)
2 Obsessive enthusiasm (5)
3 Pantry (6)
4 Miscellaneous-assembly art form (7)
5 Vladimir —, *Lolita* author (7)
6 Contract terms risky if unread (5,5)
9 Virgin-dedicated cathedral area (4,6)
13 Religious saviour (7)
14 Earnestly beg (7)
16 *One for sorrow* bird (6)
19 Enormous (person) (5)
20 A lord; a cut of beef (5)

The solution to 891 will be published Wednesday, September 25

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Leicestershire close in on title

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Leicestershire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 154 runs behind Middlesex

IT MAY be stretching a point to say that Leicester has waited anxiously for the revival of its county side, or that the city turned out in force to acclaim it, but Grace Road did have an unaccustomed air of buzz and buoyancy yesterday. There were 2,000 present to see James Whitaker's side close in on the county championship and, despite a truncated day, they were not disappointed.

While Leicestershire were bowling out Middlesex for 190 to claim maximum bowling points, their only remaining rivals were treading water. Kent were dismissed for 154 at Bristol and are now virtually eliminated; rain prevented Surrey from making a start at the Oval.

It was, in many ways, a routine day at the office for Leicestershire. The pitch had some variable bounce, the admirable quintet of seam bowlers shared all the wickets and some spectacular slip catches were held. That Middlesex made more than seemed likely after declining to 76 for six was due almost entirely to a three-hour innings by Mark Ramprakash.

Raymond Illingworth was on hand to cast an affectionate eye over the place that he ruled so masterfully during the 1970s and, for all the striking improvements in seating and practice facilities, he will have felt that some things had not changed. The hangar-like eyesore known as The Meet still casts a shadow and among the flat-capped and rugged crowd on a blustery day stood an unabashed cheerleader.

In Illingworth's day, this role was played by an elderly gentleman known to all as the Foghorn, for the fact that he would loudly announce his arrival by bellowing the first of his exhortations from outside the gates. Since his passing, the vacancy has evidently been filled by an unmissable character named Lewis — black, incorrigibly noisy, dressed in Sunday league shirt and ready to greet each wicket with a dance.

Lewis dropped reverentially to his knees amid an animated crowd gathered round the dressing-room area to cheer Leicestershire from the field at 3.15pm. Although the first part of their assignment was complete, however, Whitaker will have had a nagging feeling that Middlesex had made too many.

Photograph, scoreboard 40
Walsh foils Kent 40
117,876 not out 20

They can have chosen to bat only because they had three spin bowlers in the side and, with six wickets down at lunch, it was not looking a clever move; but the bounce could remain uneven throughout this game. Given clear weather, which is not predicted, it would be unlikely to require a fourth day.

Millns began by needlessly confronting Weekes, head to head, after his third ball of the game had produced a rejected appeal. He soon had his man, caught at third slip, but the incisive spell came from Mullally at the other end. He struck three consecutive batsmen on the helmet and took the next three wickets, including those of Gatting and Shah.

Simmons, by now, had hobbled off the field with a twisted ankle but, strong as an ox, returned within half-an-hour, instantly swooping to his right for a one-handed slip catch as Wells took two wickets in his first over. Ramprakash played in a shrewd, block-or-bash style. Dropped at the wicket on 26, he interspersed correct defence with unceremonious treatment of anything loose.

When Leicestershire began their reply, Wells suffered a rare failure, edging a good one from Fay. There was to be no further progress after tea for the champions in-waiting.

Hill offers hint of ruthless streak

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN ESTORIL

LIKE the Spanish Americans and the Germans that Bob Dylan wrote about, Damon Hill believes, too, now that he has God on his side. More than that, he has a points advantage over Jacques Villeneuve, his Formula One world drivers' championship rival, and he hinted, when he arrived here yesterday, that, his new religious backing notwithstanding, he might be prepared to use force to preserve it.

Hill crashed out of the Italian Grand Prix at Monza a fortnight ago on only the sixth lap, but still maintained his 13-point championship lead over Villeneuve, his Canadian Williams-Renault team-mate, because of Villeneuve's own misfortunes in a race eventually won by the Ferrari of Michael Schumacher. "If I learnt anything from Monza," Hill joked yesterday, "it is that God is truly on the side of Ferrari and he also wants me to win the championship. For me to knock myself out of the race and not lose any points was something of a miracle."

Hill, who is rumoured to be on the verge of signing for Jordan, can now afford to finish the Portuguese Grand Prix here on Sunday in a position that brings him three fewer points than his rival and still clinch his first world drivers' title. That situation led to him being pressed, yesterday, over whether he would be prepared to barge Villeneuve off the track if push came to shove.

Hill made all the right noises about sportsmanship and winning on merit, but also refused to discount getting rough with Villeneuve if he was provoked. His studied ambiguity created a flurry of excitement.

"I aim to get pole position, lead into the first corner and not see another soul for the rest of the race," Hill said. "There are all sorts of views about how drivers should conduct themselves, but I do not have any ambitions to be involved in any sort of questionable tactics. If I am in the lead, I will defend it vigorously, but I do not want to resort to unfair tactics. I believe I can win the race cleanly."

"So you would not deliberately take Jacques off, then," someone asked.
"Wouldn't I?" Hill said.

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